

Make a Splash!

Some animals ignore the rain. Others try to avoid it. And then there are those who love the wet stuff! For these animals, a rainy day brings a chance to mate, a fun mud bath, or a quick trip around the neighborhood.

Crocodiles don't typically seem to mind a good rainstorm. Is it because of their thick, scaly skin, or because they're used to being around so much water? Maybe they just enjoy splashing in the puddles!



These *elephant* calves play happily in a patch of dirt a rainstorm turned into an ooey, gooey mud puddle. Mud helps elephants shed pesky pests.





Have you ever noticed that *earthworms* pop out of the ground when it rains? (You probably try not to squish them when you are walking along the sidewalk.) Earthworms spend most of their lives underground because their bodies dry out in the air. But when rain is falling, they slither up to the surface. Up there, they can travel much faster than underground while still keeping their bodies moist. Of course, being out in the open is risky for juicy worms: robins and other birds may pluck them up for a delicious “tweet.”

UH-OH!
THIS EUROPEAN
ROBIN LOOKS READY
FOR A RAINY-DAY
SNACK!





Of all the rain-loving animals, the champion just might be the *spadefoot toad*. It lives in dry places and spends most of its life alone and underground. Similar to an earthworm, it needs to keep its body moist. Imagine its excitement when the rainy season begins! Spurred by the sound of thunder or rain, all the spadefoots in the area dig their way out to find each other. They quickly mate and lay eggs. Then they dig back into the ground to rest—and wait for the next big rain.



Spadefoot toad eggs



Spadefoot toad tadpoles

Snails can feel the **vibrations** caused by raindrops hitting the earth. These vibrations tell them it's time to stretch their heads out of their shells and do a little exploring! The wet ground makes it easier for them to move around.



RAIN, RAIN,
GO AWAY?
NO WAY! RAIN,
WE HOPE
YOU'LL STAY!

