Worksheet 1: "Amphibians and Urban Habitat Impact"

Objective: Introduce students to the Garden Slender Salamander and explore the impact of urban sprawl on amphibians.

1. Fill in the Blanks:

Watch the "Garden Slender Salamander" video and complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the appropriate terms.

a. The Garden Slender Salamander is categorized as an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

b. Urban sprawl and development have limited the range of many organisms, including the Garden Slender Salamander.

c. Slender salamanders thrive in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ environments.

d. Frogs, toads, and newts are also examples of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

e. Newts have rough, dry skin, while salamanders have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ skin.

f. Garden Slender Salamanders have a unique respiratory system; they breathe through their skin similar to worms, allowing them to filter oxygen through \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Urban Habitat Impact Reflection: Have students reflect on the impact of urban sprawl on the Garden Slender Salamander and other amphibians. Discuss potential solutions or conservation efforts to mitigate the impact of urban development on these organisms.

Worksheet 2: "Adaptations and Behavior of Garden Slender Salamanders"

Objective: Explore the unique characteristics, adaptations, and behavior of the Garden Slender Salamander.

1. Comparison Chart: Using this chart, draw a visual comparing the characteristics of salamanders and newts.

| Characteristic | Salamanders | Newts |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Skin Texture | Moist and Slimy | Rough and Dry |
| Size | Larger | Smaller |

1. Adaptations Exploration: Focus on the unique adaptations of Garden Slender Salamanders. Describe how their ability to breathe through their skin is advantageous in their habitat. Discuss the role of this adaptation in their survival and behavior.
2. Defense Mechanism Analysis: Explore the defense mechanism of Garden Slender Salamanders (bouncing, wiggling, tail loss). Discuss how these behaviors can distract and deter predators. Compare this defense mechanism with that of lizards or other animals.
3. Feeding Behavior: Investigate the diet of Garden Slender Salamanders. Discuss their role in controlling arthropod populations and maintaining ecological balance.