

# What's This? Life in the Dark

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Photo by J.McGuire/AmphibiaWeb/CalPhoos

If you've ever tried to find your way in complete darkness, then you know that without light, eyes are useless. And it makes no difference what color things are, since you can't see them. That's why most animals that spend their lives in the dark, like this **olm**, are blind.

This long, thin salamander swims in underground streams. It relies on other senses to find its way: it has a sharp sense of smell, keen hearing, and can even detect electricity from other animals. It can also sense pressure changes caused by other animals moving in the water. Food is scarce here, so olms are able to go without food for many years at a time.