Frogs are fascinating amphibians that exhibit unique respiratory adaptations throughout their life cycle. The question of whether frogs can breathe underwater is an interesting one, and the answer varies depending on the stage of their development.

In their early life stages, frogs begin as tadpoles, which are fully aquatic. During this stage, they breathe using gills, much like fish. Tadpoles absorb oxygen dissolved in the water through their gills, allowing them to survive underwater. As tadpoles mature, they undergo a metamorphosis and develop lungs while losing their gills.

Once frogs emerge from their tadpole stage and become adult frogs, they primarily breathe through lungs rather than gills. Although adult frogs can spend time in water, they do not have gills to extract oxygen from water. Instead, they can absorb some oxygen through their skin, which is why they need to keep their skin moist. However, while they can absorb a small amount of oxygen this way, they cannot breathe underwater.

In summary, while tadpoles can breathe underwater using gills, adult frogs rely on lungs for respiration and can only absorb a limited amount of oxygen through their skin. Thus, adult frogs cannot breathe underwater in the same way that fish do.