



## FROGS & TOADS

**Grades:** Recommended for Grades K-2

### OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will learn vocabulary specific to frogs and toads.
2. Students will learn the unique structure and life cycle of frogs and toads
3. Students will learn and understand the importance of frogs and toads in the ecosystem.

### Description:

Frogs and Toads can be found all over the world on every continent except Antarctica. Frogs and toads are animals belonging to a class called **amphibians**. All amphibians start life as an egg in a ball of jelly. The eggs are laid in water. We call the young of a frog or toad a **tadpole**. The young amphibian has **gills** to breathe underwater and a tail with a fin so it can swim. When it gets bigger it starts to grow legs, loses its gills and grows lungs to breathe air. It loses its tail fin and its legs grow much larger. Then it leaves the water to live on land. It looks like an adult now, only much smaller.

Frogs and Toads are similar; they have short bodies, a wide head, two hind legs and two front arms. When you look closely you will notice differences to tell the two species apart. Toads are a classification of frog. All toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads. If you are not sure call it a frog and you will always be right!

The toad lives on land, mainly in fields, woods and gardens. On the other hand, frogs live in water, mainly in streams and ponds. Some subspecies live in rain forests. A frog needs to keep its skin wet so it will live near water. While a toad is **nocturnal** and sleeps throughout the day, the frog is active in the daytime and at night.

## **VOCABULARY: \_Do you know what these words mean?**

**Amphibian / Carnivorous / Croak / Gills / Nocturnal /Tadpole /Webbed**

### **What is That Sound?**

The sound a frog makes is unique to its species. Frogs create this sound by passing air through their throat. Some frog calls are so loud that they can be heard up to a mile away. Fourteen species of frogs and toads live on Long Island and in New York State. Maybe you have seen them in the woods or in a pond. You may have even heard them. For example the Spring Peeper makes a “peep – peep” sound and can be heard in early spring. The Eastern Spade Foot Toad makes a low pitched short grunt.

### **DIET**

Frogs and toads are carnivorous, which means they eat meat. They like to eat insects, and small animals like earthworms, minnows and spiders. They do this by catching them with their long, sticky tongues. The diet and feeding habits of frogs and toads is similar and depends on where they are found in nature and what food is available.

### **SAVE THE FROGS!**

Frogs are faced with many environmental problems, including; pollution, infectious diseases, habitat loss, climate change and over-harvesting for the pet and food trades. Unless we act quickly, amphibian species will continue to disappear, resulting in irreversible consequences to the planet’s ecosystems and to humans. Frogs eat mosquitoes; provide us with medical advances; serve as food for birds, fish and monkeys; and their tadpoles filter our drinking water. Plus frogs look and sound cool, and kids love them — so there are lots of reasons to save the frogs!

**\*What can we all do to help SAVE THE FROGS?\***

## LONG ISLAND AQUARIUM EXPERIENCE

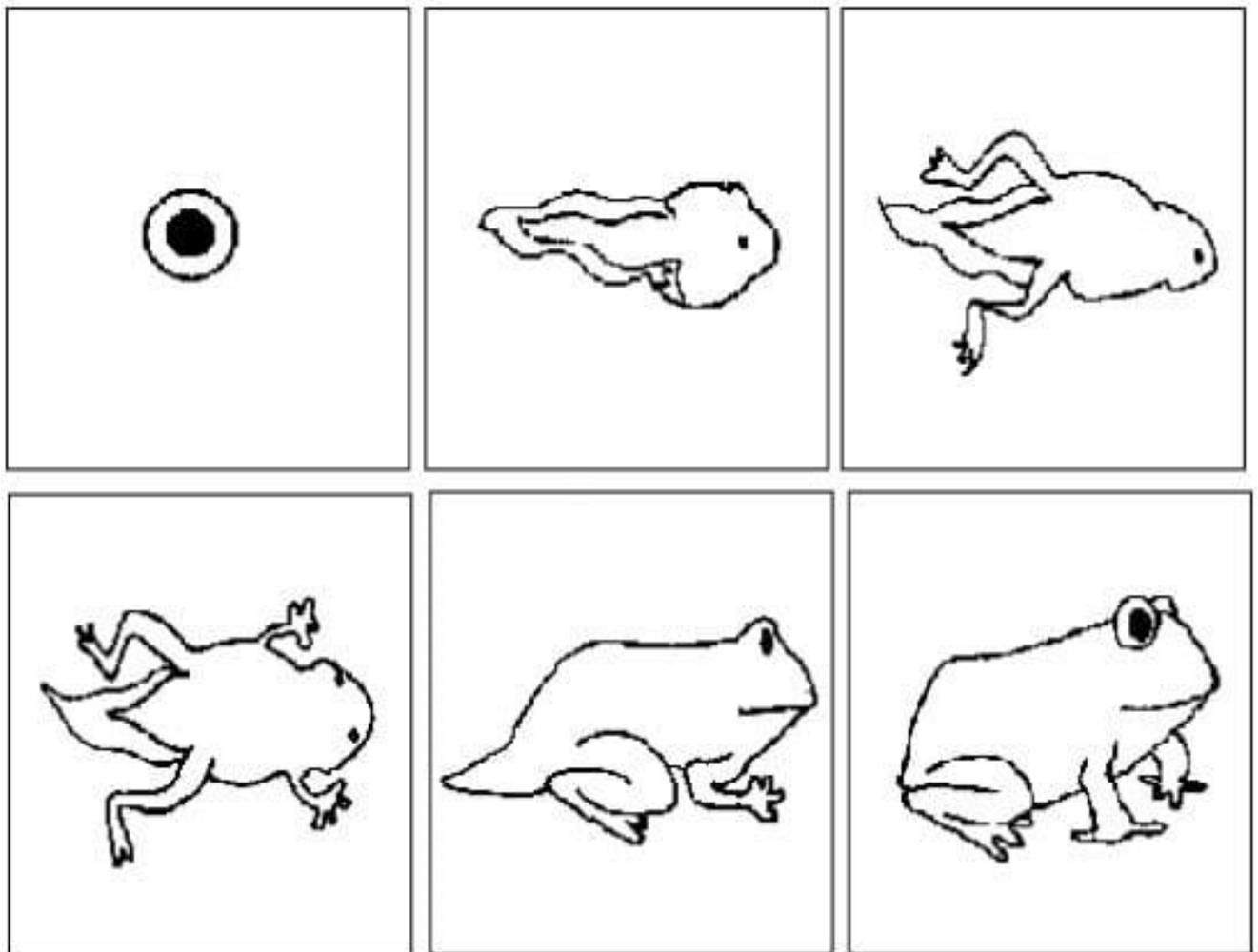
Do you know the differences between a frog and a toad? The frogs in our exhibits will help you to see how a frog and a toad are different from each other.

To tell a girl frog from a boy frog you need to look at its eardrum. Is it the boy or the girl that has a bigger eardrum?

How can frogs and toads protect themselves in nature? Most animals use camouflage to hide. Can you see how frogs and toads camouflage themselves?

Frogs and toads make many different sounds, try some frog and toad calls...

Croak, grunt, peep .....



Cut out each box and mix them up, can you put them back in the correct order

from egg to adult?