

# Ribbit!

**Hop into the  
wonderful  
world of  
frogs.**

Can you see how the  
red-banded poison frog  
got its name?

**▶ ONLINE**

Watch frogs eat insects.

Ask your teacher to show  
you the digital edition.

# Jump To It

## What is a frog?

Frogs lead double lives. They are **amphibians**. An amphibian is an animal that lives part of its life in water and part on land.

### Snack Time

When frogs are hungry, they hunt for food. What's on the menu?

Almost anything that moves!

Frogs eat insects, worms, snails, and other small animals.

Many frogs catch **prey** using their sticky tongues. Prey are animals eaten by other animals. Frogs do not chew. They swallow their prey whole.



The pickerel frog often lives near cool streams.



Natural Visions/Alamy

### Home, Sweet Home

Frogs live on every continent except Antarctica. They can be found in many different places. Most frogs live near ponds and other wet places. They can be found in rain forests and deserts. Some live in caves. Some even live high in the mountains.

A frog hides in a pond filled with a water plant called duckweed.

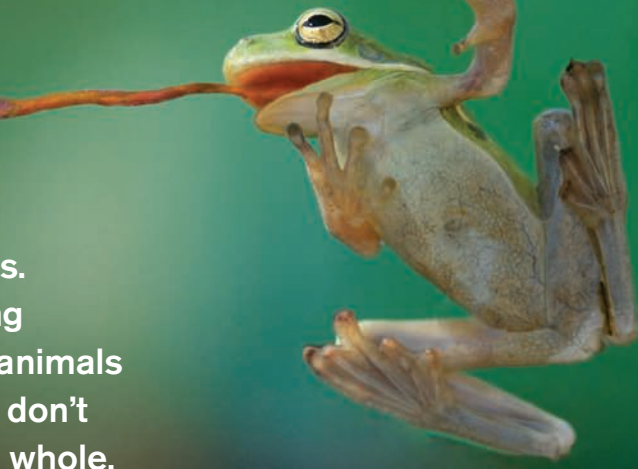


Caroline von Tuemping/Getty Images

### Soaking It In

Thirsty frogs don't drink water. They **absorb** water through their skin. To absorb is to take in. Although frogs have lungs, they also breathe through their skin. They can do that only when their skin is moist.

A green tree frog catches a hawk moth.



Burby Mays/Corbis

The strawberry poison dart frog is only about an inch long.



Paul Souder/Corbis

# Lost in The Wild

Until recently, the Omaniundu reed frog had not been seen since 1979.



AFP Photo/Conservation International/Newscom

Scientists around the world are on a search. They are looking for about 100 kinds of long-lost amphibians.

The amphibians have not been seen in years. What happened to them? Nobody knows for sure. Some of the animals may be **extinct**. Something that is extinct is gone completely.

Many of the amphibians are **endangered**. They are at risk of becoming extinct. Loggers cut down the forests where the animals live. They also face other dangers, including pollution and diseases.

Frog expert Robin Moore helped organize the search. "This search will tell us a lot about how amphibians are doing," he says. "I don't know what we will find, but that makes the search even more exciting."

## Colors for Safety

Frogs can become prey. Snakes, birds, and other animals eat them. Frogs often use their colors to stay safe. Some frogs hide with the help of **camouflage** (KA-muh-flahzh). Their colors, patterns, or shapes help them match their surroundings. That is why many frogs are brown or green.

Other frogs are brightly colored. That warns animals to stay away. Bright colors mean that the frogs may taste bad or be poisonous.

most frogs live near water?



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# A Frog's Life Cycle

▶ USING A DIAGRAM

Read the story below to learn how most frogs grow up.  
Then fill in the circle for the best answer to each question.

1



Stephen Dalton/Minden Pictures

Frogs usually lay their eggs in or near water. A frog begins life as a tiny egg.

2



George Bernard/Animals Animals

A tadpole hatches from the egg. The tadpole breathes using gills and moves like a fish.

3



G.I. Bernard/Photo Researchers, Inc.

It grows lungs and legs. Its gills disappear. Its tail gets shorter until it disappears too.

4



OSF/Ian West/Animals Animals

The frog can now leave the water and live on land. Soon, the cycle will begin again.

1. Where do frogs hatch?

- (A) on land
- (B) in or near water
- (C) underground

2. What hatches from a frog egg?

- (A) a fish
- (B) a frog
- (C) a tadpole

3. What does a frog *not* have?

- (A) lungs
- (B) gills
- (C) legs

4. Which of the following is true?

- (A) Frogs don't have tails.
- (B) Tadpoles live on land.
- (C) Gills are a kind of fish.

## WORD POWER

Draw a line to match each pair of words that rhyme.

- |         |          |
|---------|----------|
| frog •  | • pale   |
| gills • | • here   |
| near •  | • squirm |
| worm •  | • log    |
| snail • | • skills |

▶ TRY THIS

Write four more words that rhyme with *frog*.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## LAST LAUGH

Q: Why are frogs so happy? A: They eat whatever bugs them!



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