

Activities

What the Frogs REALLY Sound Like

Now that you have let everyone around you know—loud and clear!—what you think each frog sounds like, check out what they REALLY sound like. Go to www.dawnpub.com/our-books/noisy-frog-sing-along and click on the audio files. While you are there, pay attention to the sound waves that show up while the frogs sing. Sounds are little bits of air pressure that travel through the air, which are detected by your ear or by a microphone. A microphone can show them as sound wave graphs. The height of the line up and down from the mid-point represents how loud the sound is.

Track a Metamorphosis



A strand of dark eggs of the American Toad



Tadpoles of American Toad



An American Toadlet

All frogs go from egg to tadpole to adult frog within the same body of water those eggs were laid. If you visit the same pond throughout the spring and summer, you can observe each stage. First look for the tiny tadpoles. They tend to feed together on the algae in the pond. At this stage, they are basically just big heads with a wriggling tail. Over the next few weeks the tadpoles will grow larger and soon you'll be able to see the legs starting to form—first the rear legs, then the front legs. In another few weeks, the tail will disappear. The "froglet" absorbs the tail to keep it nourished as it switches from being a plant-eating tadpole to an insect-eating frog. The little froglets can be found along the edge of the pond where they hunt insects and avoid the larger frogs that may eat them. Some frogs will return to that pond. Others venture out to other habitats and other ponds.

Rain Walkers—or Hoppers

Many amphibians—frogs and salamanders—do much of their traveling in the rain. Since they all must keep their skin from drying out, their journeys are undertaken when their surroundings are wet. This is the best time to find most frogs and salamanders, as many will cross paths and roads on their way to their breeding pools. A rainy night is the best time to see this. Wrap yourself in your rain gear and grab a flashlight. If you cover the end of your flashlight with red cellophane, the frogs will find the light less disturbing and will continue to call right in front of you. If you remove the cellophane and shine the light into the water, you will find a fascinating world filled with all kinds of creatures.



Tame the Wild Frog!

If you have a small pond that you can visit frequently, you can literally have frogs eating out of your hand! It takes a bit of patience, and some worms. Very slowly, keeping your body close to the ground, hold a live worm in front of a resting Green Frog or Bullfrog. At first the frog is likely to duck underwater. If that happens, toss the worm near where the frog went down so it can find the worm when it resurfaces. Keep trying until the frog gets used to you as a supplier of food. Once it does, it gets easier and easier to get that particular frog to eat from your hand!

Build a House for a Toad

Slugs love to eat tomatoes. American Toads love to eat slugs. For that reason, they are both often found in our vegetable gardens. If you want to encourage toads to stick around in your garden, build a simple shelter to help them get out of the sun (which dries them up). Simply lay two (2" high) rocks side-by-side with about a 3" space between them. Place another rock over that space for the roof. If you hose down that area once in a while, the added moisture will make the shelter even more inviting.

