



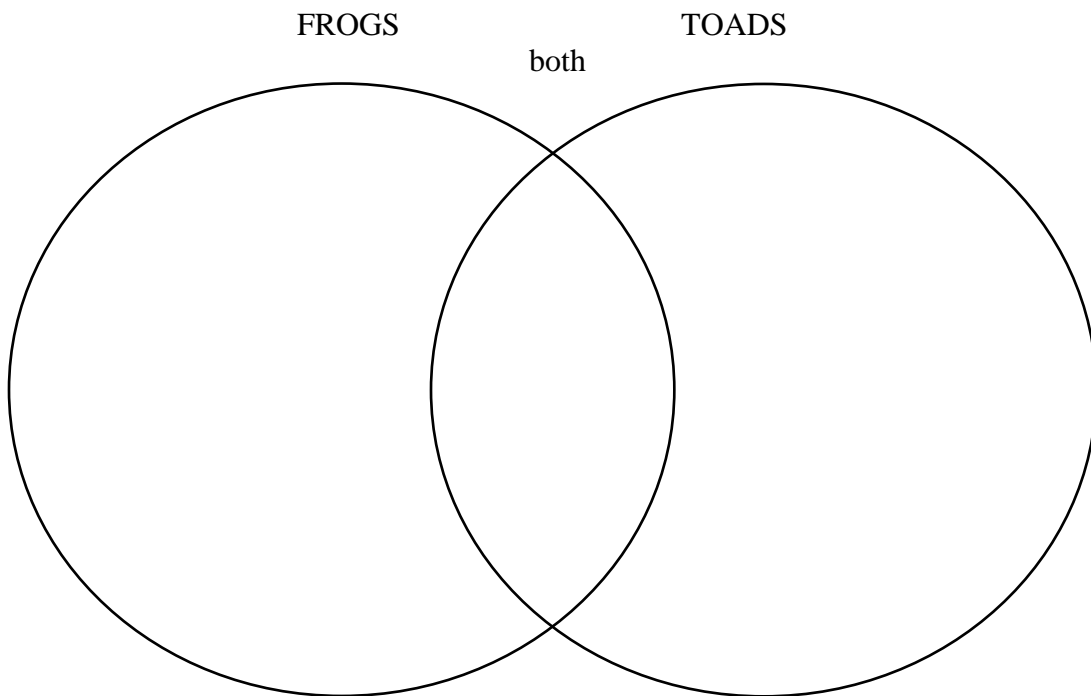
Frogs and Toads Activity Sheet

All Grades:

In the Buffalo Zoo's video about frogs and toads, we learned about VENN DIAGRAMS and how they can be used to compare and contrast different things.

Students: Create your own Venn diagram for frogs and toads. Do some research and learn more about 2 new frogs and 2 new toads! Talk or write about your new species.

Parents/Teachers: See the study guides at the end for sample answers.

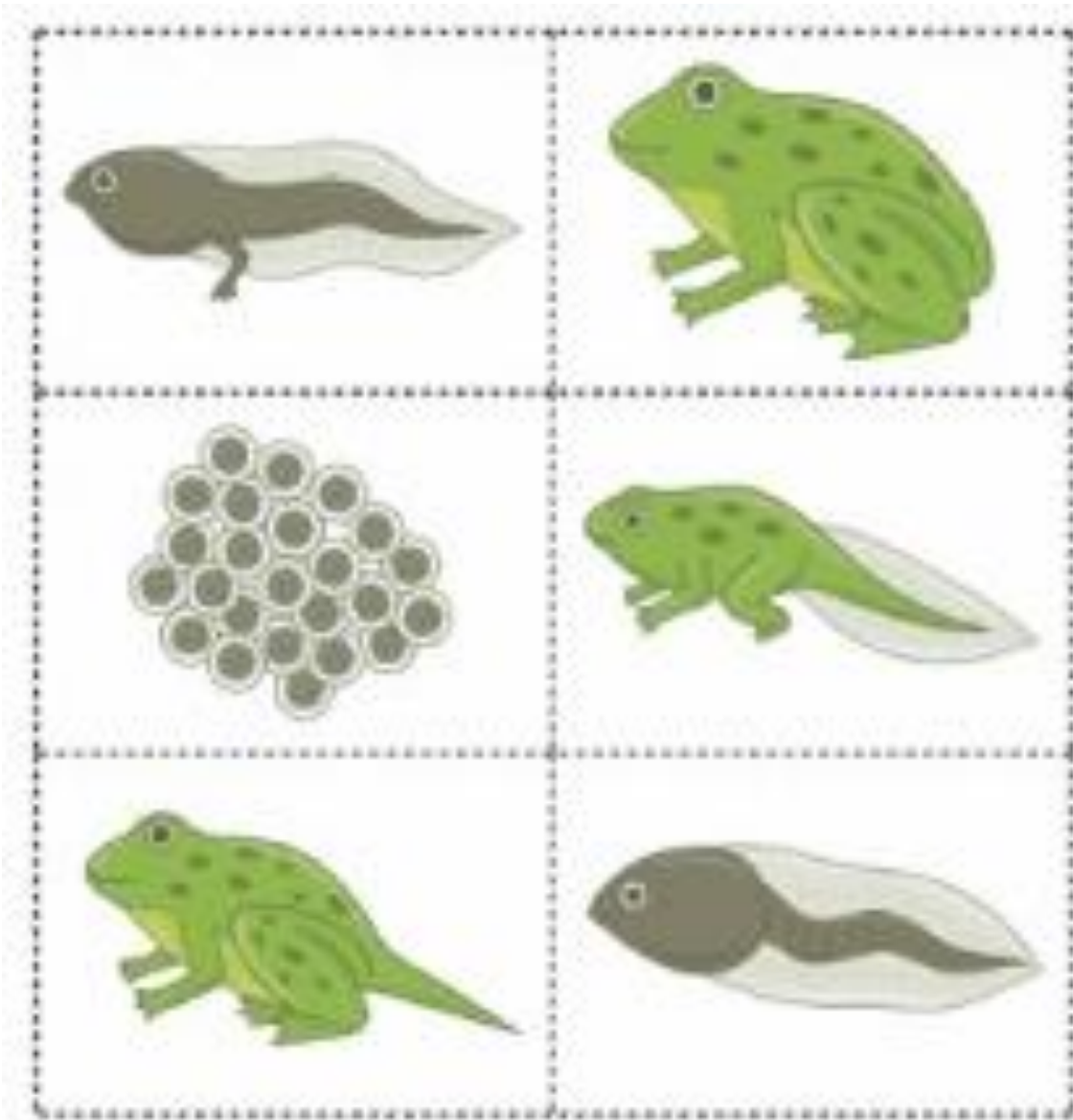


All grades:

Amphibians go through METAMORPHOSIS as they grow and change to become adults. Some amphibians even change their diet from when they were babies to when they became mature. How is our life cycle similar to amphibians?

For grades K-2:

Cut out the life cycle stages of a frog on the next page. Then, put them in order to show how a frog grows up! Where does each stage take place, in water or land? Draw a home for your frogs and babies! Can you create a home for frogs and toads in your backyard?



For grades 3-5:

Complete the previous activity then describe what happens during each stage of the frog's life cycle. How do the frog's body parts change? What does it eat during each stage? What kinds of predators does it need to look out for as it grows and changes?

For grades 6-12:

Think about what amphibians need in order to survive. Frogs and toads are considered to be **INDICATOR SPECIES** in their habitats because they live in water and on land during different stages of their life cycle. What does it mean to be an "indicator species" and why is it important to know about how amphibian populations are doing? Why are so many becoming endangered? How can we help frogs and toads where we live?

Answer Guide

Venn Diagram answers:

What are all Amphibians like?

Vertebrates

Live in water
and on land

Lay eggs

Cold-blooded

Metamorphosis

Moist Skin

**Breathe
through skin**

Tadpoles

What are frogs and toads like?

Frogs:

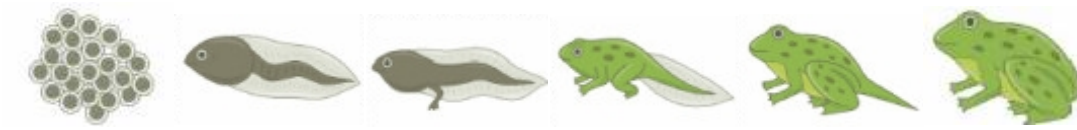
- Smooth skin
- Slender
- Long hind legs
- Jump, swim
- Teeth (for holding females)
- Lay eggs in clusters

Toads:

- Dry, warty skin
- Chunky in build
- Short hind legs
- Hop
- No teeth
- Lay eggs in strings

There are over 5000 different species of frogs and toads from nearly every type of habitat on the planet! Students can pick any 2 frogs and any 2 toads (or more!) and talk about how they are similar and how they are different. Each species is unique, so be sure to include specific adaptations that help each kind survive where they live.

Frog Life Cycle answers:



Eggs (water) ~> Tadpole (water) ~> Tadpole w/ back legs (water) ~> Tadpole w/ 4 legs (water) ~> Froglet (water and land) ~> Adult frog (water and land)

Most tadpoles will eat plant material, while most adults will eat small animals (bugs, worms, or bigger prey for bigger species).

An indicator species is one that is very sensitive to changes in the environment and can be a sign of overall habitat health. If amphibian populations suddenly crash, that means there could be problems with the quality of their habitat. Amphibians worldwide are facing several threats including over-collection for pet trade or food, climate change, habitat loss, pollution, and introduced diseases.

We can help local amphibians by preserving the wetland habitats that they need to survive! Providing clean sources of fresh water and hiding places on land is a small change we can make to our yards to help. If you live in an area that sees large migrations of frogs, toads, or salamanders consider helping them cross the road! This normally takes place in the evening in Spring, so be sure to exercise extra caution and stay safe!

You can also participate in FrogWatch USA, a citizen scientist program that monitors frog and toad populations in your own backyard! Visit aza.org/frogwatch to learn more!