

Fantastic Frogs

Learn about frogs found in Georgia, their life cycle, and about their anatomy!



Key Terms

Adaptation- a change or the process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment

Amphibian- an organism that is a cold-blooded vertebrate. Distinguishing factors include having an aquatic gill-breathing larval stage followed by a terrestrial lung-breathing adult stage

Metamorphosis- the process or transformation from an immature form to an adult form in two or more distinct stages

Background

Frogs are amphibians that are found all over the state of Georgia! Frogs are carnivorous and their diet consists primarily of insects. Since frogs go through metamorphosis and spend the first part of their lives in water, they are found in freshwater aquatic habitats such as ponds, streams, or wetlands. In the tadpole stage, they are omnivores. Their diet is often made up of algae and as they grow they eat larger plants or insects. Large adult frogs can sometimes eat other critters such as small turtles or mice. By consuming algae they contribute to regulating blooms! Algae blooms are typically different shades of green and yellow, and happen due to a rapid increase in the population of algae. Frogs are cold blooded and their internal body temperature will change depending on the environment they are in. Consistent changes to keep the body healthy is referred to as homeostasis. Frogs play an incredibly important role in predator/prey relationships and are a staple of food chains in many habitats. They are beneficial to humans because they feed on insects or slugs and aid in controlling garden pests. We also use information about frogs as an indicator to how the environment is doing. They have been around for over 250 million years and have adjusted to many climates, therefore they help us evaluate factors such as pollution, habitat destruction, or disease.

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Common Frogs in Georgia

Spring Peeper
Pseudacris crucifer



Upland Chorus Frog
Pseudacris feriarum



Wood Frog
Lithobates sylvaticus



American Toad
Anaxyrus americanus



Bullfrog
Lithobates catesbeianus



Southern Leopard Frog
Lithobates sphenoccephalus



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Frog Life Cycle Creative Writing Activity

Information: Frogs go through metamorphosis. They begin their life as an egg in water. Once they hatch, they take the form of a tadpole and develop into a frog over the course of time. Their body completely changes! Other changes involve their diet (as outlined above). A tadpole has a tail, gills, and no legs. It lives in water. A frog has no tail, skin, lungs, four legs, and lives on both land and water. The picture on the upper left shows the tadpole phase while the bottom right is the end result, a fully formed frog.

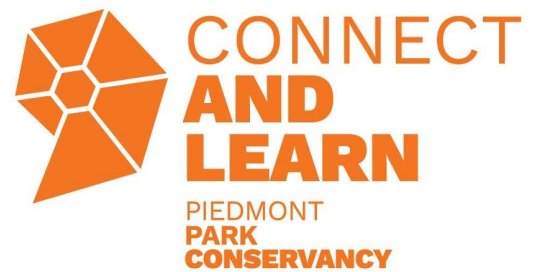
Activity: Imagine the changes these creatures go through! Using information about the frog life cycle, write a story describing the changes from a frog's point of view. Use descriptive and figurative language to explain metamorphosis. Some examples: the change in environment from living in water to being able to go on land, growing legs, or adapting to new changes that come with a new form. Be creative and use your imagination to explain how a frog might view itself or the world differently!

Activity Extension: Check out our “Language of Nature” activity for more on metaphors!

<https://1kdg3z13fxaicpy863td6286-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Language-of-Nature-Online-Content.pdf>



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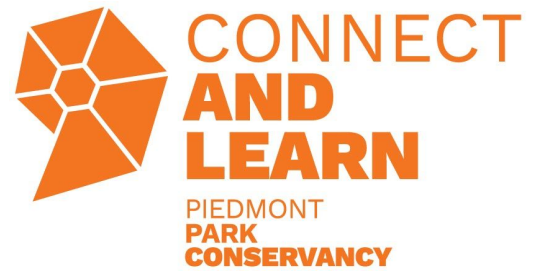


Frog Anatomy Matching Game

Information: The body of a frog is designed to help them survive in the wild. Their biological features have many adaptations that help them survive and reproduce. Try to match the features with their function with this game!

1. Short front legs	A. Allows frogs to breathe on land and take in oxygen
2. Large and broad mouth	B. Keeps frogs camouflaged and helps them blend into their surroundings so they can evade predators
3. Long hind legs	C. Aids in allowing frogs to live in water and be excellent swimmers
4. Thin, moist skin	D. Works to help frogs catch their prey and can keep prey from escaping capture
5. Transparent eyelid	E. Gives frogs balance when landing and props them up
6. Lungs	F. Aids in frogs being able to catch, consume, and eat various sized prey
7. Long, sticky tongue	G. Makes it possible for frogs to be aware of their surroundings while also staying in the water
8. Coloration	H. Allows oxygen to be absorbed while in water and also is how frogs drink water
9. Eyes placed on top of head	I. Allows frogs to use their vision underwater
10. Webbed feet	J. Supports body and makes it possible for frogs to jump up to 20 times their body length

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Answers:

1. E.
2. F.
3. J.
4. H
5. I.
6. A.
7. D.
8. B.
9. G.
10. C.

Additional Resources

Frog Jump in Action- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yKpJElwama8>

Frog Calls- https://animaldiversity.org/collections/frog_calls/