

LEVELED BOOK • M

Frogs and Toads



Written by Kira Freed

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Frogs have been on Earth
longer than dinosaurs.



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I Found a Frog!

Have you ever seen an unusual animal in nature? Did you want to learn more about it? Last week I saw a really neat frog, and that was the start of a wonderful adventure.



What does a frog say when it sees something great?
Toadly awesome!



I took this picture of the frog I saw.



The Goliath frog is the largest frog in the world.

I looked for the frog in a book called a **field guide**. I started looking through the pictures in the book. I was amazed to see all the different kinds of frogs and toads. It turns out I saw a wood frog.



Do You Know?

There are almost 5,000 kinds of frogs and toads. The biggest one is as big as a dinner plate. One of the smallest is the Brazilian gold frog. Its real size is shown here.

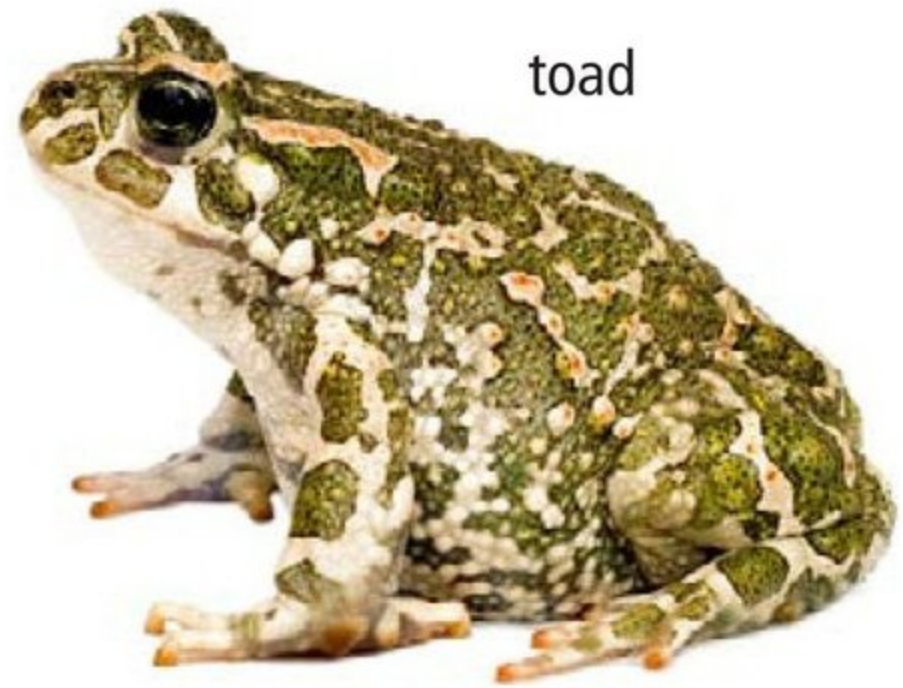




frog

I wanted to know
more, so I went
to the Internet.
Did you know
that frogs and

toads are relatives of newts and
salamanders? They're all
amphibians,
which means
they live part of
their life in water
and part on land.



toad



newt

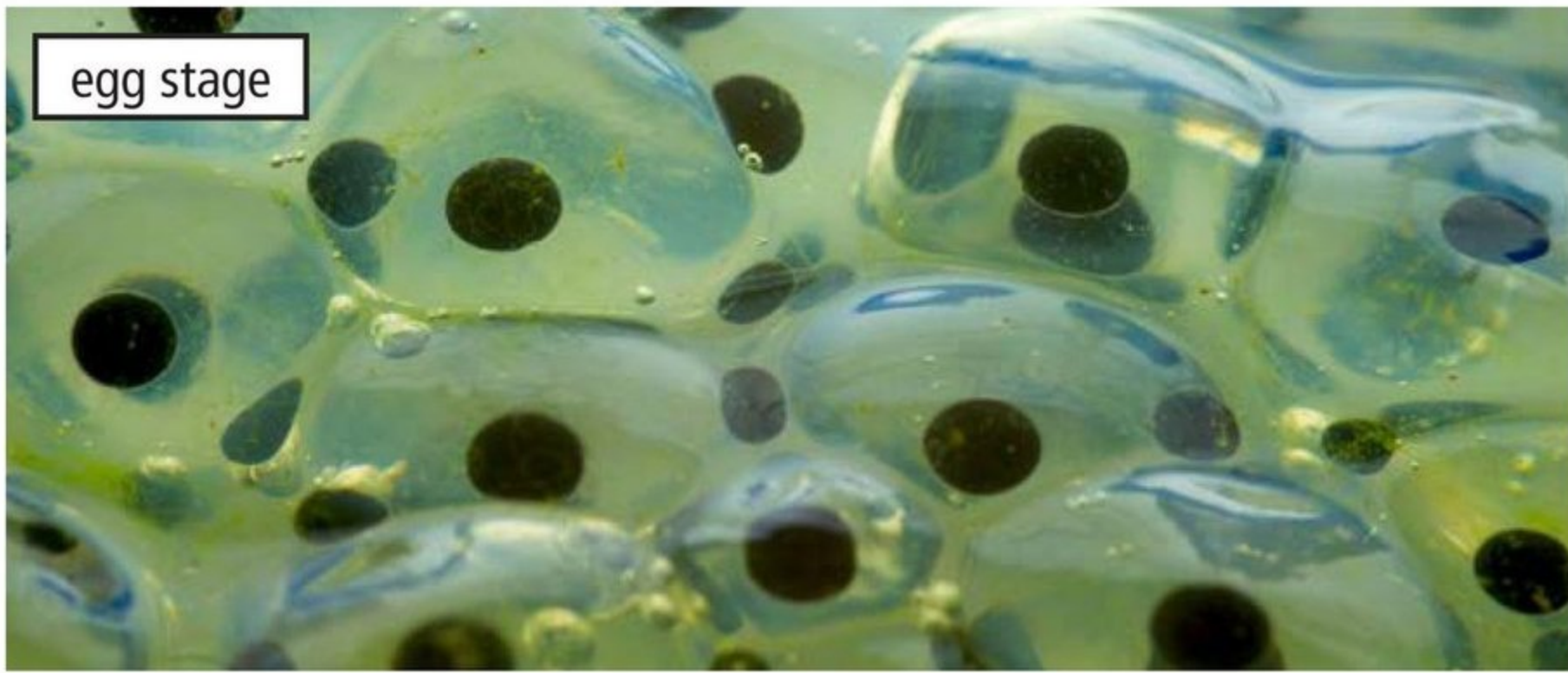
Amphibians are
cold-blooded
animals. They
don't make their

own body heat.
They get warmth
from the heat of
the sun.



salamander

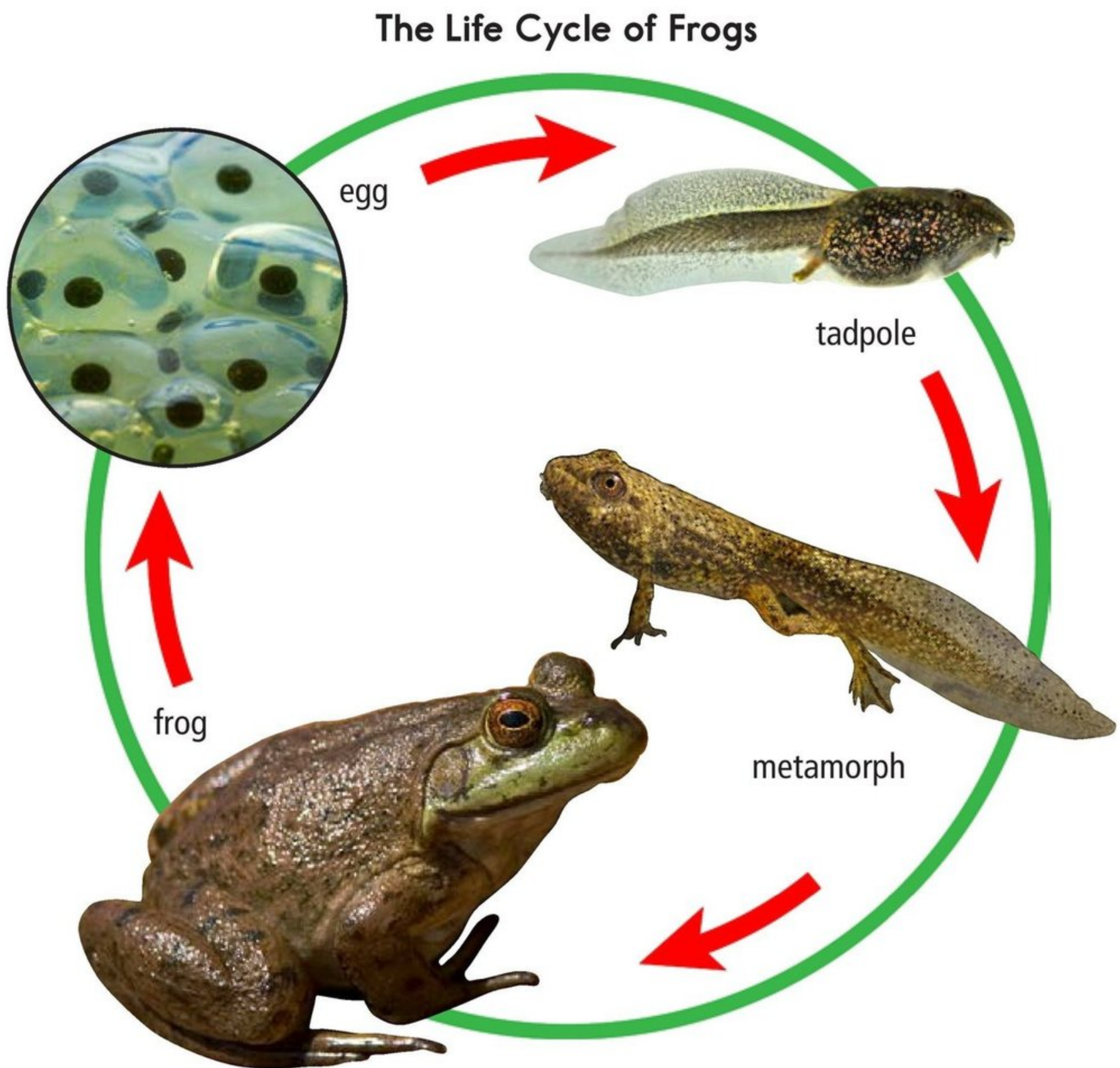




Life Cycle

I also learned that most frogs and toads lay jelly-covered eggs in water. The babies that hatch are called tadpoles and look like little fish. Tadpoles breathe with gills, just like fish, and they live in water. But it's amazing what happens as they grow!

Their gills disappear, and they grow lungs so they can breathe air like other land animals. They grow legs and then arms. Later, their tail shrinks. By the time their tail is gone, they move onto land. I saw some very cool photos of the life cycle of frogs and toads.



About Frogs



Frogs are famous for their **ability** to leap with their long, strong back legs. They leap to catch insects and other **prey**. A frog can catch an insect in an instant with its long, sticky tongue.



Why are frogs so good at baseball?
Because they catch a lot of flies.



The eyes and nostrils of a frog are on the top of its head. Frogs can see, smell, and breathe while they're mostly under water. In fact, they breathe through their *skin* while they're under water!



Frogs can make an amazing amount of noise. Male frogs sing loudly to attract a mate.

Do You Know?

Male frogs use throat pouches to sing. Some male frogs have one throat pouch, and others have two.

What has more lives than a cat?
A frog—it croaks every night.



Do you know the differences between frogs and toads? Here's what I learned from a book at the library.



Frogs	Toads
smooth or slimy skin	dry, bumpy skin
live in wet places	live in dry places
long, strong back legs (for leaping)	shorter back legs (for walking)
webbed feet (most)	no webbing on feet
lay eggs in groups	lay eggs in long chains





This frog wasn't able to escape.

Defense

I was sad to learn that frogs and toads are food for many other animals. Bats, snakes, birds, and **rodents** all hunt them. But frogs and toads have clever ways to stay safe from animals that might try to eat them.

What happens when
frogs park illegally?
They get toad away.



Some frogs and toads, like the wood frog I saw, are the same color as their **habitat**. This is called *blending in*. It allows them to hide better from **predators**.

Some kinds of frogs are so poisonous that just touching their skin is deadly. These frogs are brightly colored to warn predators to stay away.



Do You Know?

One golden poison frog contains enough poison to kill 10 people or 20,000 mice. This frog is one of the most poisonous animals on Earth.

The golden poison frog lives in the South American rainforest.



Some frogs try to trick predators that might want to eat them. The tomato frog puffs up like a balloon when a snake gets near. The snake thinks the frog is too big to eat. If the snake tries to eat it anyway, the frog leaks a liquid like glue from its skin.



The tomato frog lives on an island off the coast of Africa.

Why are frogs so happy?
They eat whatever bugs them.



Tree frogs have sticky pads on their fingers and toes to help them grip.

Frogs Are Cool!

Frogs and toads come in many shapes, sizes, and colors. You can find them in trees, in or near water, and on the ground. One thing is true about all of them—they're amazing animals. What kinds of frogs have *you* seen?



Glossary

ability	a skill or talent (p. 9)
field guide	a book that helps people identify living things in nature (p. 5)
habitat	the environment in which an animal lives (p. 13)
predators	animals that hunt and eat other animals (p. 13)
prey	animals that are food for predators (p. 9)
rodents	mice and their cousins (p. 12)

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