

YOUNG EXPLORERS



HOP to IT

Here's a riddle for you: What's green, has great night vision, and is referred to as an "army" when in a large group? No, we're not talking about a soldier—we're talking about a frog!

Frogography

There are over 4,000 known species of frogs in the world, and they live on every continent except for Antarctica. They are found in wetlands, woodlands, meadows, and even up in trees! These amphibians spend part of their life in water and part of their life on land.

Things That Make You Go Ribbit!

- **All toads are frogs. But not all frogs are toads.** Why? Toads are just a way to group certain kinds of frogs that have dry, bumpy skin.
- **Frogs have amazing night vision.** And since their bulging eyes sit on top of their heads, they can see in almost every direction.
- **Frogs drink and breathe through their skin.** Although they have lungs in their adult stage, they depend on the oxygen absorbed through their skin, especially when they are swimming underwater.
- **It's the male frogs that do most of the singing during breeding season.** You can often hear the males calling to attract females at lakes, ponds, and vernal pools.

Find a Frog

Look and listen for frogs in late spring and summer. Where you find them (their habitat), what they look like, and what they sound like (their call) are important identification clues. Of the 10 species you can find in Massachusetts, here are three to search for.



BULLFROG: Our state's largest frog. It has a green face and a green-brown body. It has a ridge of skin that runs around its eye and curves around the frog's eardrum (called a tympanum). It's found in ponds and marshes. And it sounds like it is saying "jug-a-rum."



GREEN FROG: One of our most common frogs. It has a green face and a green-brown body with a ridge running down both sides. Look for it in ponds and wetlands. Listen for its banjo-like "gunk" sound.



SPRING PEEPER: A small frog with "masked" eyes. It usually has a brown "X" on its back. It's difficult to see this frog in the wooded areas near wetlands and ponds, but easy to hear its high-pitched "peep peep peep peep."

On the Move

Many species of frogs can jump very far using their powerful, springy hind legs. Some frogs can jump as far as 20 times their body length. Compare this to kangaroos, who can jump up to six times their body length. **How about you? Give it a try!**



How tall are you? _____

How far can you jump? _____



Learn more about frogs and how you can be a Frog Hero at massaudubon.org/youngexplorers.