



Bullfrog Life Cycle

Read and study the display board by the Water Garden and this sheet, then answer the questions at the bottom, using the answers provided. "Bullfrog Facts" are not on the display board.

- Eggs** The female frog lays masses of eggs in the water. The tiny eggs hatch into tadpoles.
- Tadpole (polliwog)** Tadpoles hatch from frog eggs and start swimming, eating water plants and growing. They store fat in their tails and breathe using gills.
- Tadpole with legs** In this stage the tadpole sprouts legs, and then arms. Its tail becomes shorter, lungs form and gills start to disappear. It still lives in water.
- Froglet** The almost mature frog breathes with lungs, can hop on land, and still has some of its tail.
- Adult** The adult frog lives on land and eats insects. It breathes with lungs and has no tail (it has been absorbed by the body). It spends its days near or in water or lounging on lily pads.

Facts about Bullfrogs at The Hudson Gardens in Littleton, Colorado

- It takes up to three years for a bullfrog to grow from an egg to a mature adult frog.
- A young bullfrog that hatches from an egg in the spring will spend its first winter as a tadpole.
- In the spring, you may see tiny, newly hatched tadpoles and larger, one year old tadpoles up to 6" long. At the same time, you may also see small, newly mature frogs about 2 ½" long and larger, older mature frogs up to 6 ½" long.
- Young frogs make a high-pitched, brief, chirping sound, while adult bullfrogs make a lower, longer series of sounds.
- In the fall, the frogs and tadpoles burrow into the mud at the bottom of the pond and appear to go to sleep. They are hibernating.



Go to the Water Garden to complete the Frog activities



Frog Life Cycle

Directions: Read each description and match it to the correct picture.

1. Frogs start life as **eggs** hidden in the water.

2. When the eggs hatch, baby frogs called **tadpoles** are born. Just like fish, tadpoles have gills and breathe underwater. Check this box after you find a tadpole swimming along the edge of the water.

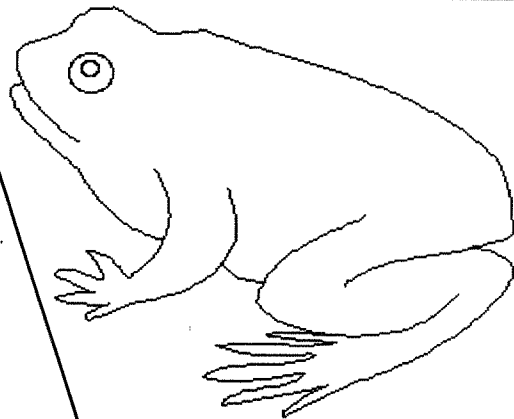
3. As the **tadpole** gets older, its tail becomes shorter and its legs begin to grow. Tadpoles eat plants growing in the water. Check this box when you find a **tadpole with legs**.

4. As the tadpole gets larger, its tail gets smaller. It grows lungs so it can breathe on land. It is called a **froglet**. Check this box after you find a froglet hiding in the mud.

5. When you can't see the frog's tail anymore, it is an adult frog. It lives on land and eats insects. Check this box after you find a frog resting on a lily pad.



TADPOLE WITH LEGS



ADULT FROG

TADPOLE



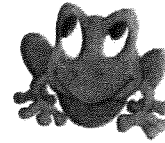
gills



EGGS



FROGLET



Frog Food

1. A frog catches food using its long, sticky tongue. Use your hands to measure the distance between your mouth and bellybutton— if you were a frog, your tongue would be this long!

2. Frogs eat many kinds of foods. Find at least three of these frog foods, and circle the pictures once you find them:



fly



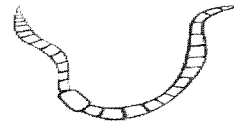
small fish



ant



underwater
plant



worm



spider

3. Frogs use their eyeballs to help them swallow food! After a frog catches an insect to eat, it blinks. When it blinks, its eyeballs press against the back of its mouth and push the food down its throat.

This is why frog's eyes are so big— they need to be very strong in order to help the frog swallow. Find a frog with big eyes and draw its picture here:



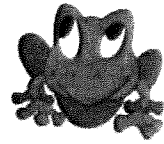
**My picture of a frog with
big eyes**

4. Do you think that frogs eat their own skin once a week? Circle your answer:

YES

NO

ANSWER #4: Yes! Every week frogs grow new skin and their old skin falls off. Frogs then eat the old skin because it has many vitamins in it.



Frog Life

1. Frogs are cold-blooded. This means that their body temperatures are the same as the temperature outside. When it's hot outside, frogs' temperatures are warm and they are very active. When it's cold outside, frogs' temperatures are cold and they don't move very much. Make a guess about the frogs' temperatures today: are they warm, cold, or neither?

Warm

Cold

Not warm or cold

2. During the winter, it gets so cold outside that frogs hardly move at all. They seem to be sleeping, but they are actually **hibernating** for the winter. Can you think of another animal that hibernates?

2. Find these sizes of frogs and put an X through the pictures once you find them:



a tadpole as big as your thumb



a tadpole as big as your hand



an adult frog as big as your fist

4. Frogs protect themselves from enemies by hiding in areas that are the same color as their skin. This is called **camouflage**. Look around the pond and find a frog that blends in with the area. Put a circle around the word that describes where it is hiding.

lily pad

mud

grass

bottom of pond

5. Write down the most interesting thing you learned about frogs today:
