

# WHO LIVES IN OUR H2O?

## *Aquatic Animals*

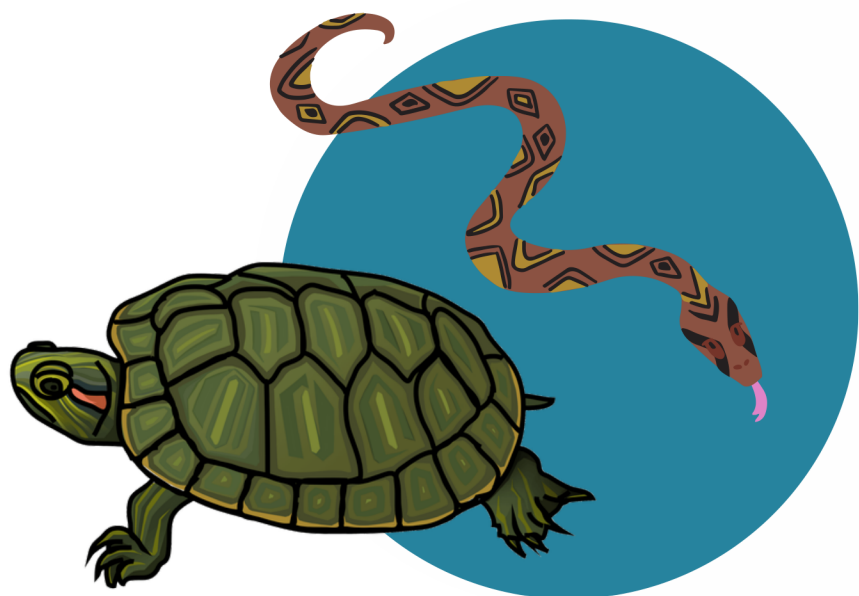
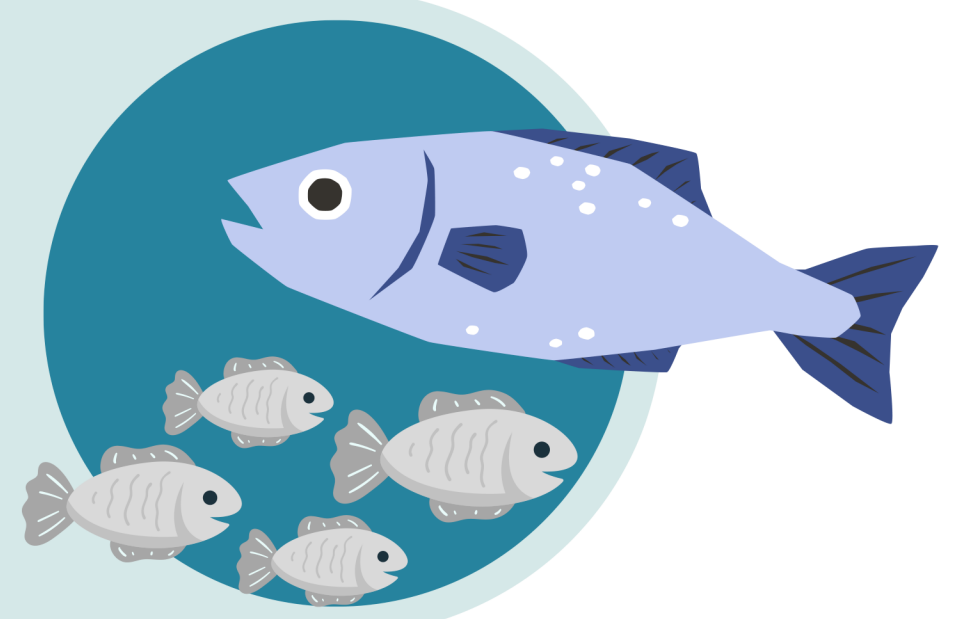


### **Frogs and Toads (Always Near Water)**

Generally, frogs have smoother skin, longer legs, and moist skin. Toads are usually bumpier, stockier, and may often have dry skin. You may have seen a Leopard frog or Gulf-Coast Toad in the area. Amphibians are very sensitive to pollutants and breathe with both lungs and their skin!

### **Big Fish, Little Fish (Always in Water)**

Minnows, Catfish and Carp are common fish in our rivers, lakes and ponds. Fish lay eggs and live their entire lives in water. They're also a great food source for lots of other animals! When rivers and creeks dry up, they must find deeper water sources like ponds, lakes and aquifers.

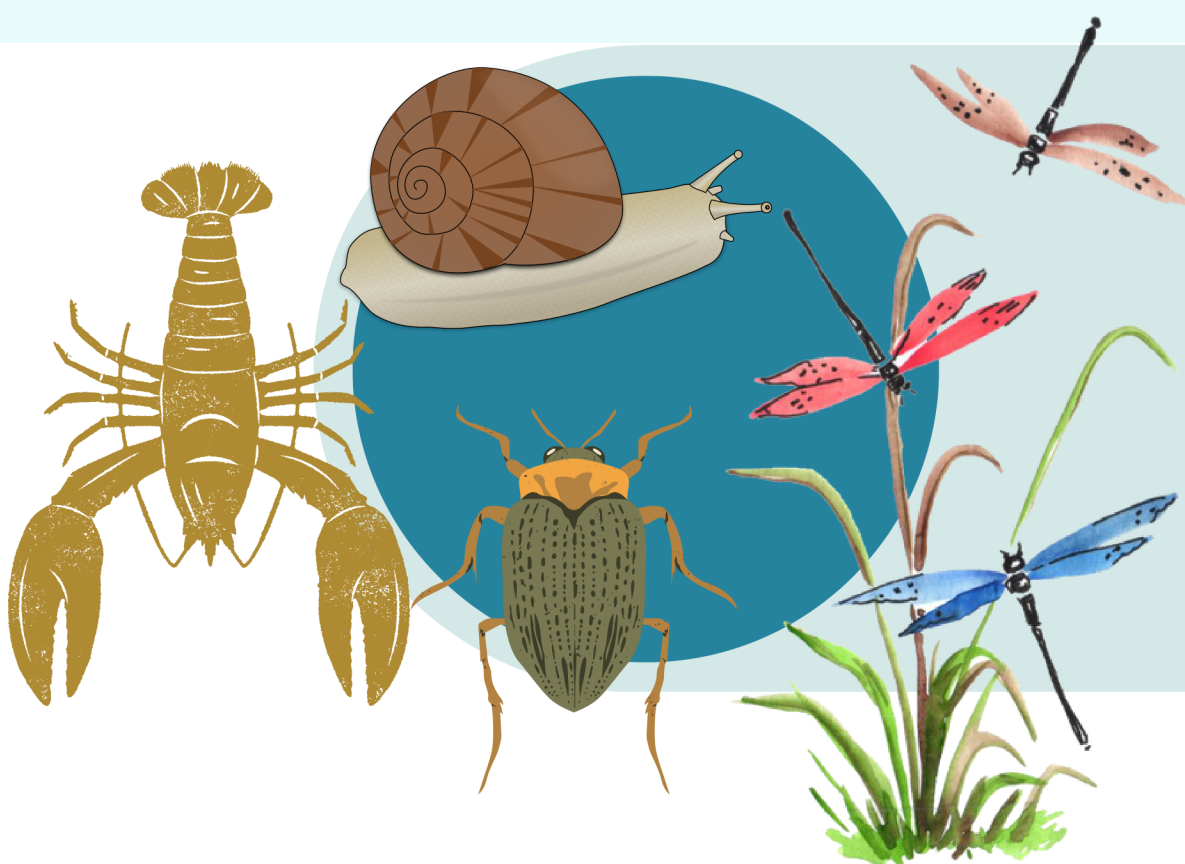


### **Familiar Reptiles (In & Out of Water)**

Many reptiles live in and around water, especially snakes & turtles. Turtles [but not Tortoises] swim & hunt in our waterways. We've got Red-Eared, Yellow-Bellied, Alligator Snapping, Softshell, Map, and Mud to name a few. And Snakes... well, if you ever see one, run the other way! Venomous or not, it's always better to leave them be.

### **Mammals and Birds (Water, Air, and Land!)**

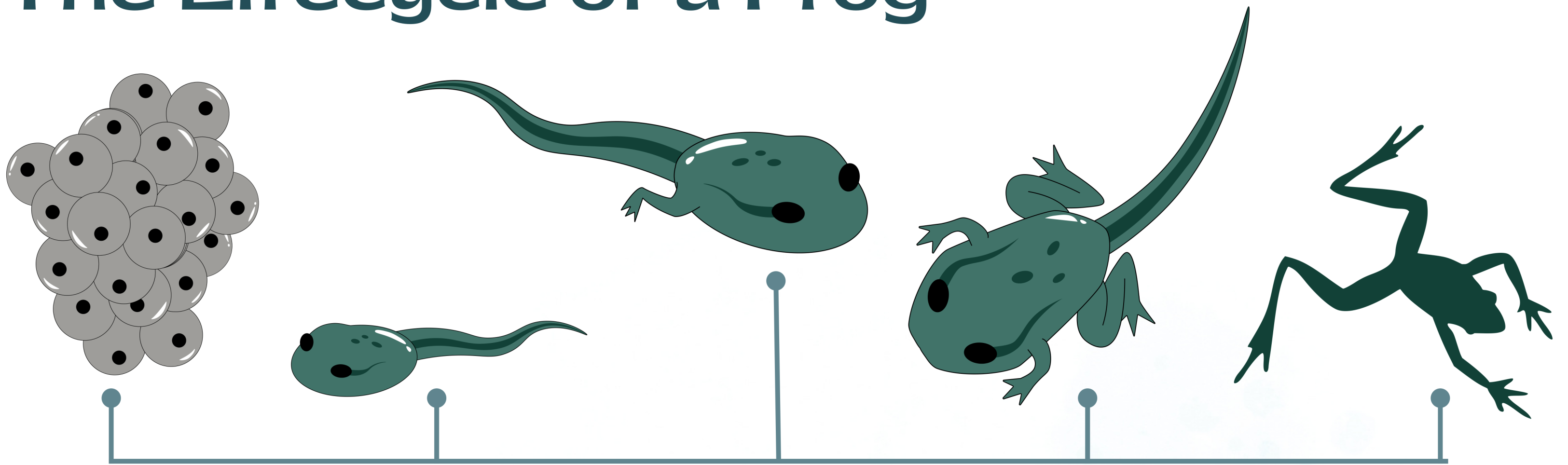
Most of these are predators that eat all the other groups of animals. They're also sometimes the easiest to spot because they're so big! Rodents like Beavers and Nutria are big and fuzzy, but birds can range from tiny Kingfishers to tall Cranes.



### **And plenty more!!!**

There are tons of other invertebrates that live there too: crawfish, snails, clams, insects, & worms! Invertebrates are often the go-to meal for the larger animals. Many live their entire lives under water, from egg to larvae to adult! How neat!

# Metamorphosis : The Lifecycle of a Frog



## EGGS

Frogs begin life as a gelatinous [jelly covered] mass of eggs floating in a pond: these clusters of floating frog eggs are called "egg masses". Toads usually lay eggs in strands like beads on a necklace. Frogs can lay up to 4,000 eggs at one time!

## TADPOLE

Tadpoles hatch from the egg with poorly developed gills, mouth, and tail. After 7-10 days of wiggling and resting, the tadpoles will start to swim around and eat algae.

## TADPOLE (with 2 legs)

Between weeks 6-9, the tadpole will begin to form its legs. Their body continues to develop, forming a more distinct head. During this stage, tadpoles eat dead insects and plants.

## FROGLET

By week 12, the mouth of the froglet will grow wider, and they're tail will become more stubby as they use the energy stored within. The froglet looks more like a smaller version of a frog. Their internal organs are growing too.

## FROG

By weeks 12-16, the Froglet's tail shrinks away, the lungs develop, and the back legs grow strong. Then we have a frog! Amphibians must shed their skin as they grow. Usually, the shed skin is eaten. Yum!



## Aquatic Play Prompts

Time for YOU to hop into the Pond!

- Pretend the area is under water, a **POND** or the **OCEAN**.
- Gather grass, leaves and twigs to build a **BEAVER Dam**!
- Swim like an **ALLIGATOR**.
- Pretend you're a **CRANE** or a **FLAMINGO**!
- "Glub Glub" like a **FISH**.
- Hop like a **FROG** and looks for bugs!
- Find a friend and play Predator vs Prey Tag! One be a **CATFISH** and the other a **MINNOW**!
- Waddle around the area like a **TURTLE**.
- Pretend everyone is a **FISH** in the **SCHOOL**!



# A Day in the Life of a Frog or Toad!



## Frogs & Toads are very vocal!

Frogs close their nostrils and send air back and forth across their vocal cords and into a vocal sac, which is the part you see puffing up. Frogs make many different croaking sounds: **clicking, choral, barking, trill, chirp, chuckle, whine, "jug-a-rum", "wrenk", "bonk"**. In general, male frogs and toads croak at night to attract females. They also croak or chirp when scared. **Try to make some frog sounds!!!**

## Where do they live and what do they eat?

Frogs live on all the continents except Antarctica, and in all sorts of environments as long as there is fresh water nearby. They are **herbivores** as tadpoles and **carnivores** as adults! Frogs are more social than toads, who are mainly solitary. **These hungry amphibians eat anything that fits in their mouth!** They'll eat insects, snails, worms, fish, and sometimes even mice, birds and even smaller frogs!!!

## Make your own fly-catching froggy friend!



## Materials:

Cardboard Tube	String
Button	Stapler or Tape, Glue
Construction Paper	Googly Eyes

## Directions:

Cut the cardboard roll in half. Measure 6" of string. Tape or Staple one end of the roll shut, attaching one end of the string with it from the inside. Then, decorate the roll using markers. Use scrap pieces of paper to make legs, then attach. Tie the button on the loose end of the string. You can draw a bug on scrap paper and glue it to the button. Then it's time to play.

Hold the frog in one hand with the open mouth upward. Swing the 'insect' on the string until you catch it in the mouth. Happy Chomping!

HOW TO MAKE AN  
**APPLE FROG**  
SNACK-TIME FRIEND



RIBBIT  
RIBBIT!

**MATERIALS:**

GREEN APPLE, GRAPES, MARSHMALLOW,  
CHOCOLATE CHIPS OR SPRINKLES

**DIRECTIONS:**

AN ADULT SHOULD SLICE THE APPLE IN HALF. ALSO CARVE OUT A MOUTH FROM ONE HALF. YOU CAN USE THE OTHER HALF TO SLICE FOR LEGS, OR CUT SOME GRAPES IN HALF.

THEN ASSEMBLE YOUR FROGS! USE MARSHMALLOWS FOR EYES. CHOCOLATE CHIPS OR SPRINKLES CAN BE THE PUPILS! TOOTHPICKS MAY HELP WITH ASSEMBLY.

TO CHECK OUT OUR OTHER GRAB & GO LESSONS, VISIT:  
[WWW.PHILHARDBERGERPARK.ORG/GRABNGO-NATURE-LESSONS](http://WWW.PHILHARDBERGERPARK.ORG/GRABNGO-NATURE-LESSONS)