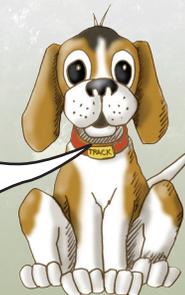




Finding Frogs



Early spring is when many frogs and toads are most active. The next time you are hiking near a pond or lake, see if you can find any of the following signs of frogs and toads, and look and listen for some of the common frogs and toads shown here.



Signs of Frogs and Toads

Frogs and toads are **amphibians**, which means they spend at least part of their lives in water. The best places to look for frogs and toads are near lakes, ponds, and streams. Sometimes it is easier to find eggs and tadpoles than it is to find the frogs and toads themselves.



□ Eggs

Look for frog and toad eggs near the water's surface, often attached to underwater plants or sticks. They look like big bunches of bubbles or clear balls of jello with black specks in the middle.



□ Tadpoles

Tadpoles are baby frogs. Most of them look like tiny dark fish with a round head and a squiggly tail. Look for them in shallow water. They will sit still by the water's edge and swim to the middle when you get close. Can you find any with arms or legs?

Common Frogs and Toads

To hear what the following frogs and toads sound like, visit:

http://www.herpsofnc.org/herps_of_NC/anurans/anurans.html



□ Spring Peeper

These tiny tree frogs are no bigger than crickets, and have an "x" shape on their backs. Listen for their chirping sounds near wet woodlands early in the morning or at sunset.



□ American Toad

American toads have warty skin. Adults live on the land, and are **nocturnal**, which means they are active at night. However, young toads can be found in the daytime. Look for them in areas with lots of bugs.



□ Bullfrog

Bullfrogs are our largest frogs, and are always found near water. They can be brown or bright green. A male bullfrog's eardrum is bigger than his eye. A female's ear drum is the same size or smaller than her eye.