

# FROG WATCH at Home



## Activity 1: Create a Frog Symphony

On spring nights in wet areas, the calls of frogs and toads fill the air. If you listen closely, you can hear individual calls in the chorus like the instruments in a symphony!

Only male frogs call, and each species makes a distinctive sound that is recognized by members of the same species. In the Greater Toronto Area, calls can be heard as early as late March and late into October.

Here are some frog calls that you can create using simple materials. Try creating your own symphony of frogs from home!

Frog	How to make its sound!
Leopard Frog	Rub wet hands on a balloon
Green Frog	Pluck a rubber band stretched over a tissue box
Mink Frog	Tap a metal spoon on wood
Pickerel Frog	Make snoring sounds
Northern Cricket Frog	Tap two stones together
Spring Peeper	Make a short series of 'peep...peep' sounds
Western Chorus Frog	Run your fingers along the teeth of a comb
Wood Frog	Make short 'quack quack quack' sounds like a tiny duck
Bullfrog	Say slowly "rrruumm" or "jug-o-rum" deeply into glass bottle

## Activity 2: Create a Toad Abode

Toads, a type of frog, are commonly found on trails and in gardens. They are most active in the evening but can also be found during the day. Both frogs and toads need to keep their skin moist. Frogs do this by sitting in water. Toads tend to hide under flat stones and logs, and in other moist, cool places. You can help create a 'toad abode' or shelter for toads in your garden using simple materials from home!

### INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1 Find an old coffee can, plastic flowerpot or clay flowerpot as the base of your toad abode.
- 2 Collect natural materials to decorate your toad abode. These can include sticks, leaves, moss, lichen, stones, or other materials found in your yard.
- 3 Decorate your toad abode. Have fun and paint it with bright colours! When it is dry, seal it with a paint sealer. Add your natural materials.



**WHERE TO PLACE IT?** Place your toad abode in a shady area of the garden, away from pets or doorways. Near flowers or at the base of a small shrub is best. Lay your toad abode on its side and bury half of it in the garden so it is sturdy. Add some leaf litter inside so toads can hide and keep cool. Place a small pan of water nearby.

**THEN WHAT?** Wait and see if a toad moves in! Try not to move your pot so you don't spook any toads. Remember, toads have very porous skin and are very sensitive to the environment. Never pick up or touch a toad.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN THE WINTER?** Toads hibernate in deep, loose soil to insulate from freezing temperatures. Remove your toad abode, clean it with water and vinegar, and store it indoors over the winter.



**FUN FACT!** One toad can eat up to 1000 insects in a day! They also enjoy feasting on worms, spiders and pesky slugs. Placing a battery-operated night light or motion light near the toad abode will help attract bugs for the toad to eat.