

## **Feed The Frog**

Frogs are Amphibians

- class of vertebrates that includes frogs, toads, salamanders, newts, and caecilians
- There are about 5,000 different kinds of frogs & toads
- Greek word meaning “double life” (land and water)

Frogs go through metamorphosis – they change shape during their life

**\*\*Show Frog Life Cycle\***

5 Stages:

1. Eggs (frog spawn) clusters
2. Tadpole (large head w/tail and gills)
3. Tadpole with back legs and develops lungs
4. Froglet with front and back legs looks more like a frog (10 weeks)
5. Frog (when tail disappears it hops out of the water and onto land)

Frog facts:

- Will shed their skin as they grow (about once a week)
- Live in all regions of the world except Antarctica
- They can only live in fresh water – no salty water
- Cold-blooded – regulate their temps based on the temperature around them
- Carnivorous – eat meat (flies, mosquitoes, moths, dragonflies, worms, snakes, mice, small turtles)
- Their bones form rings during hibernation – like trees do  
Scientist can count these rings and tell you how old it is

Frogs can make many sounds

- Chirp
- Whistle croak
- Rabbit
- Peep
- Cluck
- Bark
- Grunt

What are some of their predators?

- Birds
- Fish
- Reptiles
- People

Some frogs have been showing deformations. (35 states and 3 Canadian provinces since 1996):

- extra legs
- missing legs
- odd colorations

Scientists think some of the causes are:

- due to a parasitic worm
- Indirectly due to
  - Habitat destruction
  - Chemical pollution

If you find a frog with a deformation there is an online form you can fill out at the North American Reporting Center for Amphibians website

[www.nbii.gov](http://www.nbii.gov)

The number of frogs has been declining. Scientists think this is due to:

- Pollution (pesticides & acid rain)
- Habitat reduction
- Climate change (UV rays effect their eggs)
- Introduced predators (esp fish like trout)
- Overharvesting (for education-dissection and for eating)

FrogWatch USA – a citizen science program you can find online

- track and monitor frogs in your area
- input your results
- read results from other people who have been tracking frogs all over the United States