

# Frogs

(Final Copy)

A sticky pink tongue darts out to grab a small, unsuspecting bug and - ZAP! It slurps it down for a mid-morning snack. Such is a moment in the life of the frog, a common amphibian found in all shapes, sizes and colors and in many places around the world. In fact, about the only place you won't find some kind of frog is in the coldest parts of the world like Antarctica. As a cold-blooded amphibian, the frog cannot adapt to the year round freezing temperature of the air and water.

From the largest African Goliath frog measuring about one foot long, to the smallest tree frog, which is only about 1/2 inch, the daily struggle for survival is great. Frogs may make tasty meals of flies and bugs, but other creatures like ducks, fish and bigger insects consider frog eggs, tadpoles, and even a mature frog, to be their dinner of choice. A female frog may lay several thousand eggs, but under the best of conditions, only a few survive to be adult frogs.

Did you know that many common frogs such as the native bullfrog of the Northwest are in danger of becoming extinct? That's because not only do the bullfrog tadpoles face a day-to-day struggle with their natural predators, but as people continue to build houses and buildings and poison the rivers and streams, the natural environment for frogs gets smaller and smaller. The places where frogs live is