

The Frogs of Alameda County

WITH FRED FROG!

Activity Pack



Red-Legged Frog



Pacific Chorus Frog



Western Toad



Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog

Including:
"Fact or
Frog-Tale"

Quiz Game!

Origami
Jumping Frog
Craft

Interviews
With Fred's
Friends



Protecting Alameda County Creeks, Wetlands & the Bay

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Meet the Frogs of Alameda County!



Hi, I'm Fred Frog. I'm a Red-Legged frog, and I live right here in Alameda County. Did you know I'm not the only kind of frog hanging around these parts? When I'm not having adventures with Izzy the Egret, I go visiting my frog friends. Want to meet some of them?



Pacific Chorus Frog

Fred: I guess I have to say, I'm a little jealous of my friend Crooner. He's got a beautiful voice, and he's not afraid of the spotlight!

Pacific chorus frogs like Crooner are easy to see and hear anywhere there's water and open space, especially in the spring. Look near ponds and creeks in any of the East Bay parks, for example Garin, Coyote Hills and Tilden Regional Parks.

Crooner: I LOVE singing! You've probably heard me and my brothers croak a tune for the girls a time or two, especially in the spring. We like to hang around ponds, marshes and wherever else it's nice and moist, sometimes even people's backyards!



Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog

Fred: What was that splash? Hey, it's Linus Lemon-Legs! He's a yellow-legged frog and he loves rushing creeks and waterfalls. Linus, tell us what people can do to keep the water clean for us frogs!

Yellow-legged frogs like Linus aren't seen very often but have been spotted in Sunol Regional Park and can be found next to moving water, like creeks, streams and waterfalls, and rock piles near those waters.

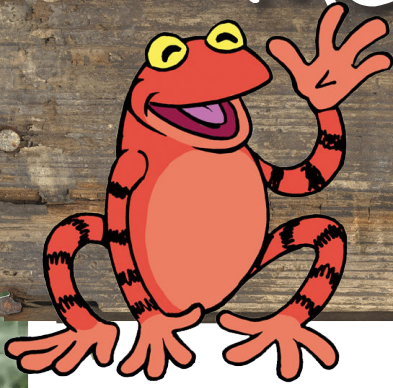
Linus: That's easy, dude! Just don't let anything other than rainwater get into the storm drains. Because all of that flows directly into creeks and wetlands—our homes! Make sure your car doesn't leak oil onto the street and wash it at a car wash instead the driveway so that no soapy water runs down the curb and into the stormdrain. Also, sweep your sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them down. Thanks everybody, we sure do appreciate it!



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More Frogs of Alameda County!

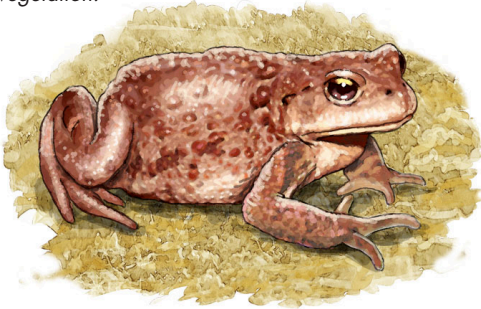


Here are some more of my frog friends!

Red-Legged Frog



Find red-legged frogs like Rosie and Fred near ponds in Eastern Alameda County's open space, like Brushy Peak and Sunol Regional Parks. They are easiest to spot in the summer when there is less water and vegetation.



Western toads like Wilma are pretty hard to find, in part because they're so well camouflaged. A good place to check is Frog Pond in Sunol Regional Park.

Fred: This is the kind of frog I am, a red-legged frog. Can you tell? Yes, my legs are-RED! Enough of me, though. Let's meet Rosie.

Rosie: I was busy laying eggs in one of the cattle ponds out in the parks. The little ones should be out of the water in late summer. I just hope the water's clean enough!

Fred: Why is clean water so important for frogs?

Rosie: Because we drink through our skin! Along with the water, we absorb whatever's in it—fertilizers, car chemicals, soap... you name it! Imagine drinking dishwater! No wonder this stuff makes us frogs sick and can even kill us.

Western Toad

Fred: Yikes! Let's ask Wilma the Western Toad how people can help keep their water and our homes clean.

Wilma: Sure thing, Fred! We toads spend more time on land and less in the water than you frogs, but we need clean water, too. People with yards can help us out a lot. For example, don't use pesticides, especially before watering or when rain's in the forecast. There are less-toxic products out there. Look for the Our Water Our World display in the gardening section of your local store, or visit ourwaterourworld.org for more information.

Watch Fred Frog and Izzy Egret's videos on YouTube.

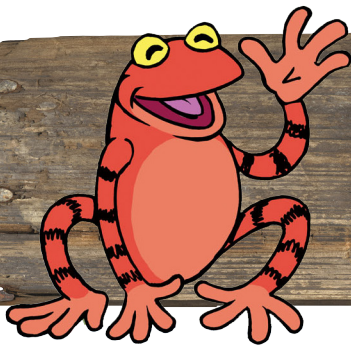
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Ready to Play Fact or Frog Tale?

Fact or Frog-Tale?

1. You can get warts from touching a toad.

Frog-Tale! It's the appearance of toads' skin that gives rise to the myth. Since they actually spend most of their lives on dry land, they've developed very rough skin that looks like warts to keep them from dehydrating. But—it's better not to touch frogs and toads, because many secrete chemicals that can be irritating or even poisonous to humans.

2. Frogs can predict the weather.

Fact—at least for some frogs! Frogs have an exceptionally high sensitivity to humidity. They need water to stay alive and are very good at finding it. In the hours before a rainstorm, frogs sense the increased humidity in the air. Some species even have a specific rain croak that will let you know if showers are on the way.

3. Frogs are as old as the dinosaurs.

Fact! As a species, frogs first appeared on Earth about 190 million years ago, when dinosaurs were dominant. Like sharks, dragonflies, crocodiles and alligators, frogs are a living fossil from Earth's distant past.

4. Frogs eat their own skin.

Fact! Just like snakes, frogs shed their skin regularly, especially when they grow. It usually splits down the middle of the back and across the belly, and the frog pulls its arms and legs free. The frog then quickly eats the sloughed skin because it contains proteins that would otherwise be wasted.

5. When you kiss a frog, it turns into a prince.

The Mother of all Frog-Tales!! But—showing frogs some love (no kissing, though!) can bring blessings as good as a prince. When we protect the areas where frogs and toads live and keep their water clean, we are helping the whole eco-system thrive. Frogs keep bugs in check, and in turn are food for birds and mammals. When frogs are healthy, everybody wins.

6. A group of frogs is called an "army" of frogs.

Fact!

FROQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What do frogs and canaries have in common?

Both frogs and canaries are animals that warn humans about danger. Coal miners used to bring caged canaries into the tunnels to signal when dangerous gases such as methane or carbon monoxide leaked into the mineshaft. The gases would kill the canary before killing the miners. Similarly, frogs can warn humans that an ecosystem is in danger of collapsing, because they are extremely sensitive to pollution and other environmental problems, and among the first creatures to disappear.

2. What's the biggest frog?

The largest frog is the African Giant. It grows to 26 inches long and weighs 10 pounds. Here in the US, the biggest frog is the American Bullfrog. It can grow up to 18 inches long and weigh more than a pound.

3. How many eggs can a frog lay?

It depends on the frog. Some lay as few as two eggs at a time, some as many as 50,000! The California red-legged frog lays up to 1,000 eggs in one breeding season.

4. Do frogs have teeth?

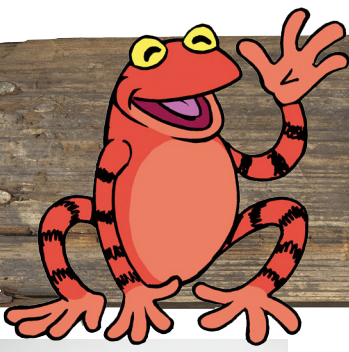
Toads don't have teeth but most frogs do! However, they're not like human teeth for chewing. Since frogs swallow their food whole, the teeth—located on the edge of the upper jaw and the roof of the mouth—are mainly used to grip the prey and keep it in place until swallowed.

5. Why are frogs so slimy?

Frog skin secretes mucus that keeps the frog moist. Although frogs can swallow and have lungs, they drink and breathe mostly through their skin. If the skin gets too dry, the frog is at risk of suffocating. Slippery skin is also helpful in making it harder for predators to get a good grip on their prey.

6. What's the difference between frogs and toads?

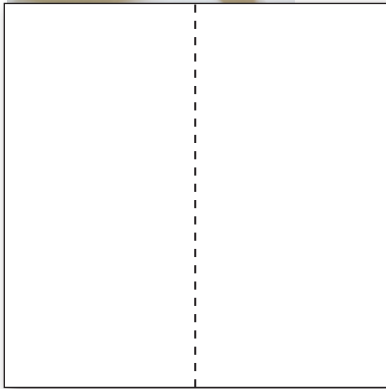
Toads actually are frogs, but they look and behave quite differently. Toads have much shorter hind legs than frogs, so they can only walk and hop while other frogs can jump. Toads have dry and warty skin, and can live away from water longer than frogs. They also lay their eggs in long chains while frogs lay eggs in ball-shaped masses.



Make your own Origami Jumping Frog!



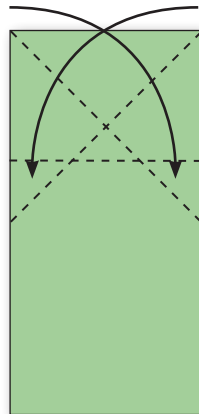
See a video of how to make this frog: Daily Origami: 003 - Jumping Frog 01
URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PR_AI3CM2-A



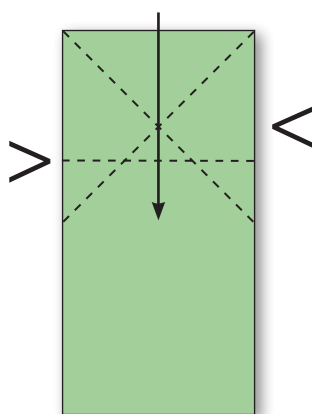
Start white side up, fold in half.

Crease

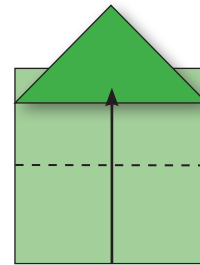
> < Pinching motion



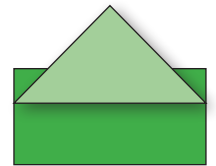
Make these 3 creases.



Pinch midpoints on side while pushing top triangle down.

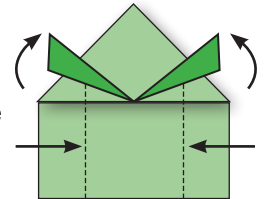


Fold from bottom up to edge of triangle.

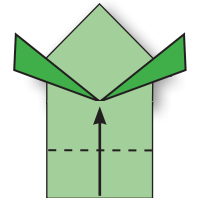


Check point: triangle top and rectangular bottom.

Fold up top layer of triangle to create front frog legs.



Fold sides in to midpoint of frog body under front legs.



Fold bottom up to midpoint.



Fold corners of rectangular down towards bottom

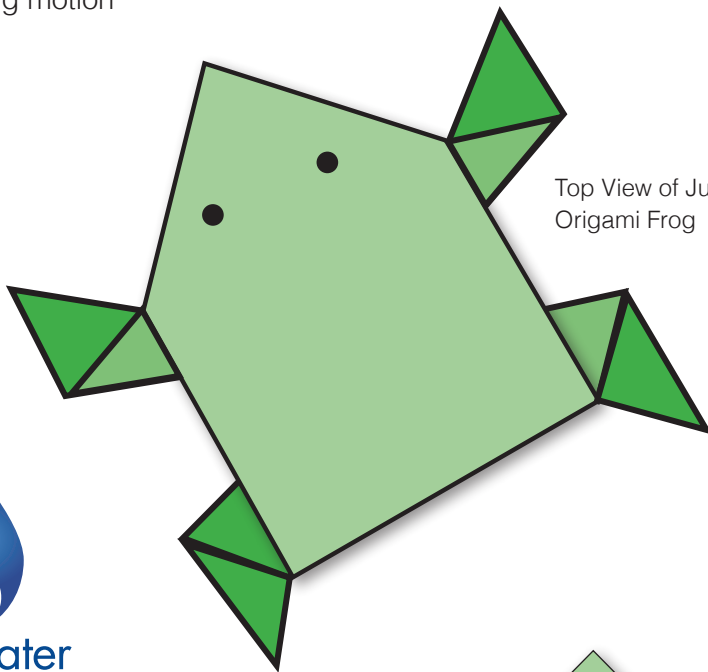


Check point: front legs are finished; last fold created triangular shape at bottom.

Pull out layer to create long back frog legs.



Fold down top angle to complete leg.



Top View of Jumping Origami Frog



Final check point: underside of frog has pinwheel look.



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