



FROGS!

Fun Frog Facts for Kids

- They are amphibians. These are a cold-blooded vertebrate animals of a class that comprises the frogs, toads, and newts. They have an aquatic gill-breathing larval stage followed (typically) by a terrestrial lung-breathing adult stage.
- A group of frogs is called an army..
- They breathe through the nose and their skin.
- They need to live near water as their skin must constantly be moist. If it dries out the frog dies.
- Their vision field is almost 360° so they can see all that is around them all the time! Frogs have the ability to see in different directions at the same time: forward, upwards and sideways.
- Their call is called a croak.
- Frogs sleep with their eyes open; they never have their eyes closed during their life.



wildlife watch



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Simply fill in a membership form or go to www.manxwt.org.uk (don't forget to ask an adult before going online) and ask your parent or guardian to send with payment to Manx Wildlife Trust, 7-8 Market Street, Peel, IM5 1AB

Why Not Join Today and Begin Your Wildlife Adventure?

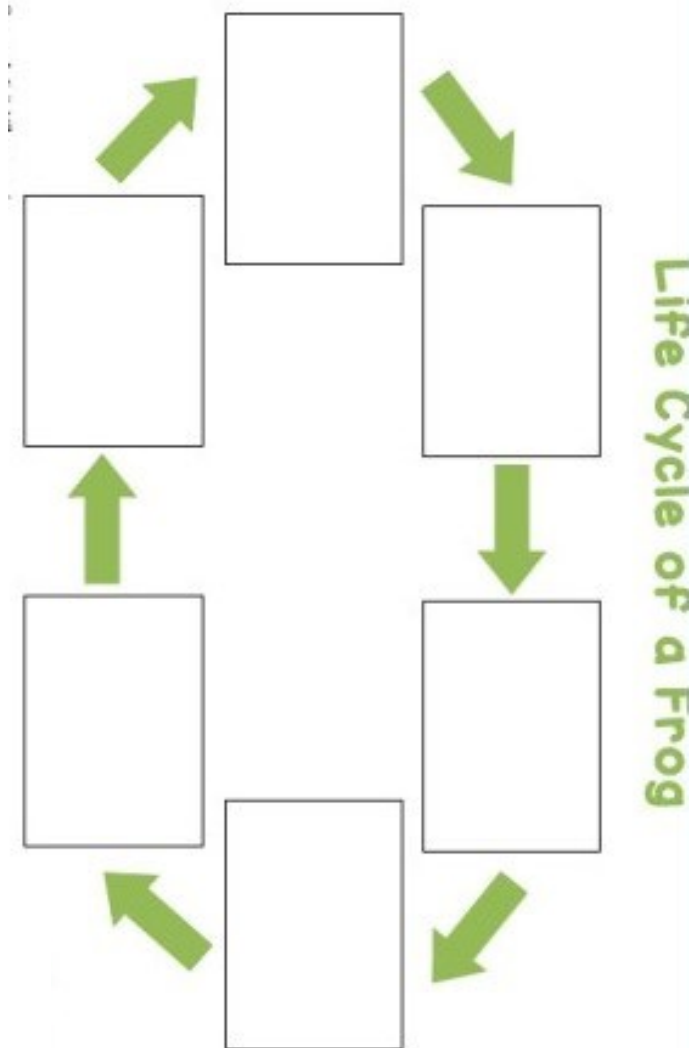


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- They typically lay their eggs in the water.
- A group of eggs is called a frogspawn.
- The eggs hatch into tadpoles.
- Tadpoles have no lungs, they have gills.
- They grow lungs before they mature into a frog



Newly hatched tadpoles are mainly herbivorous, feeding on algae, detritus, plants and some small invertebrates, but they become fully carnivorous once their back legs develop, feeding on small water animals or even other tadpoles when food is scarce. The typical pond frog takes three years to develop to maturity and then it is ready to breed.

In the wild, frogs are considered prey/food by many animals and do not survive very long.

Once a week a frog will shed its skin completely. It will pull the skin off of its body and usually eats it.

Frogs can hibernate during the winter in pond mud or under piles of rotting leaves, logs or stones



You may be able to spot the common frog all year round, although they are most commonly seen between March and October.

How do Frogs Eat?

- A frog's tongue is not attached to the back of its mouth, like a human tongue. It is attached to the front where it can extend its tongue out further and make use of the sticky coating to catch its food.
- Frogs have an odd way of swallowing food; they actually use their eyes as part of the process.
- When they blink, it pushes their eyeballs down to create a bulge in the mouth roof.
- This bulge puts pressure and helps to squeeze the food in their mouth down and through to the back of their throat.
- Adults eat insects that they catch with their long, sticky tongue, snails, slugs and worms. Young tadpoles feed on algae, but then become carnivorous.
- Frogs don't drink water – they soak it into their body through their skin.



Lifecycle of the Common Frog

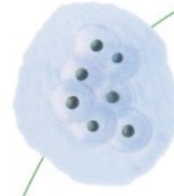
It will take three years before the froglet will reach maturity and the cycle starts all over again!

At twelve to fourteen weeks the tail disappears and the tiny froglet is ready to leave the water.

Ten to eleven weeks and the front legs have also appeared.

After eight weeks the back legs have formed.

In early spring, the male frog arrives at the pond and may have travelled up to one mile to get there! He attracts the female with a loud croaking sound.



The eggs or frogspawn are surrounded by jelly. A clump of frogspawn can contain up to 4,000 eggs.

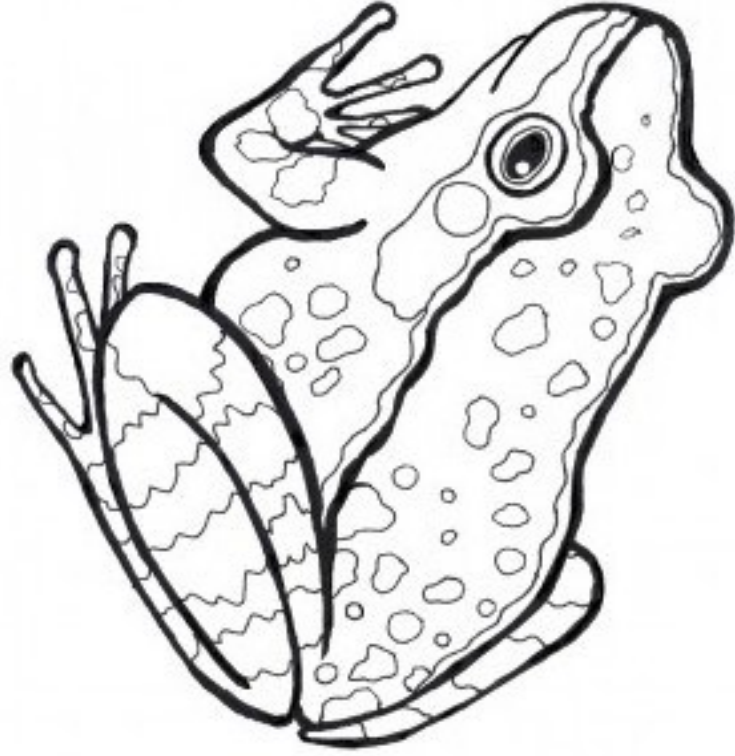


After about 10 days a tadpole wriggles out of each egg.



At first it uses its gills to breathe, but after five weeks the tadpole develops lungs and has to swim to the top of the water to breathe air.





How to build a mini wildlife pond



You will need:

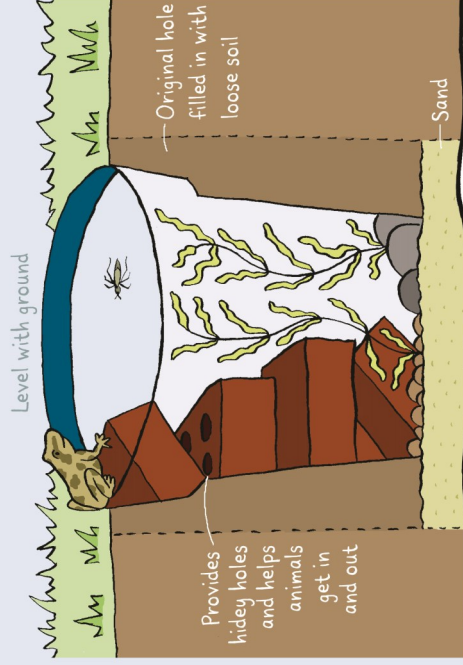
- an old bucket or watertight container
- spade
- sand
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles
- native pondweed (eg. curled pondweed)

1 Dig a hole deep enough to hold your container.

2 Remove any sharp rocks and line bottom with sand.

3 Sit the container in the hole and fill the gaps with loose soil.

4 Build a pile of rocks and bricks in bottom, scatter pebbles and add pondweed. Fill with rainwater.



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