

Frog or Toad

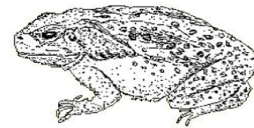
(To leap or not to leap)

Do you know how to tell the difference between a frog and toad? Actually, a toad is a frog. Toads are members of the frog family, but are not what we consider "true frogs." Bullfrogs, green frogs, leopard frogs, and common frogs are "true frogs." American toads, fowler toads, and common toads are what we call "true toads." Keep reading to find out the differences.



True Frog

"True frogs" and "true toads" are amphibians. Amphibians are cold-blooded vertebrates that spend part of their lives in bodies of water (or watery places) and part on land.



True Toad

Pick up a "true frog" or "true toad" and you can feel the difference. A frog has moist, smooth skin. A toad's skin is dry and bumpy or warty. The bumps are not actually warts and you cannot get warts from toads. Toads do know a cool trick, though. Their skin secretes a poison to stop bigger animals from eating them. (so remember, DO NOT LICK THE TOADS!)

Frogs have skinny, lean bodies. A toad's body is usually stocky and wide. Frogs have long, strong back legs and webbed feet. A toad has short back legs and not very much webbing on its feet.

Frogs and toads even move around differently. A frog takes long leaps, while a toad takes short hops. Both amphibians lay eggs in water. The eggs turn into tadpoles and then eventually into a young frogs or toads. The young frogs will usually stay close to the water, but a young toad will wander away from the water into a wooded or grassy area. The next time you see one of these wonderful creatures, take a minute to watch it and see if you can tell the difference.