

3.0 Northern Territory Frogs

Key Questions

- How do you identify frogs commonly found in the NT?
- How can the Frogwatch website be used to find out about frogs in the NT?
- Where can you learn more about frogs or see frogs?

Suggested Activities

3.1 *Flip the Frog (Memory Game and Activity Sheet)*

The aim of this activity is for students to realise that there are many different species of frogs, each with distinguishing features. Print two copies of each of the three pages of 'Frog Cards' using a colour printer and cut out each card. It is preferable that each page is printed onto card or laminated.

Before instructing students to play 'Memory' with the cards, it would be useful to talk to students about the different frogs on the page and get the students to talk about some of the differences between the frogs. Upper primary students can complete the activity sheet before playing memory. In small groups or individually, students are to compare and contrast the frogs and try and find a 'distinguishing feature' for each frog, which then recorded on the activity sheet. As students play memory, suggest that they read the name of the frog out-loud before turning them back over or collecting their pair.

NB. The frog cards could be kept as a reference for other activities (such as discussing the difference between frogs and cane toads).

3.2 *Frog Research*

Using the Frogwatch website, students are to research a frog and record their findings. On the website (www.frogwatch.org.au) click on 'Frog Lists'. Choose a frog and click on its name. A table with 'Details' of the frog will appear. Look through each of the menus ('Description', 'Distribution', 'Observations', 'Images and Calls'). Record this information in each of the boxes on the worksheet. If time permits, students could create a poster by cutting and pasting the boxes on a larger sheet of paper and drawing/printing the frog.

NB: Field guides could be also be used to find out specific information about the frog chosen.

3.3 *Frog Calls*

The aim of this activity is to draw student's attention to how frogs can be easily identified by their call and to develop skills that will improve their listening skills and ability to distinguish between different calls. After logging on to the Frogwatch website and following instructions provided, students are to listen to and record the phonetics of several frog calls on the activity sheet.

NB This activity is suitable for upper primary school children. Computers with internet access are required.

3.4 *Finding NT Frogs*

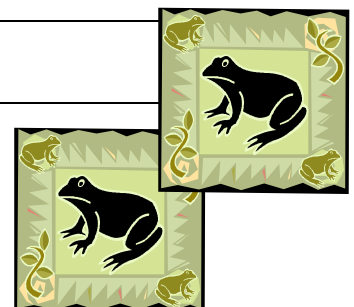
This activity provides information about locating frogs and can be used as a handout for students to take home to encourage them and their families to locate frogs in their local area. The advice would also assist teachers locate frogs on a school camp or specific frog-finding excursion.

3.1 Flip the Frog

You are going to play 'Flip the Frog' Memory. Before you start, have a look at the 18 frog cards. For each frog, try and identify one *distinguishing feature* (something that makes it different from the other frogs) and record it in the table below.

COMMON NAME	DISTINGUISHING FEATURE
Desert Spadefoot Toad	
Dahl's Aquatic Frog	
Roth's Tree Frog	
Wotjulum Frog	
Giant Frog	
Ornate Burrowing Frog	
Magnificent Tree Frog	
Striped Burrowing Frog	
Green Tree Frog	
Arnhem Toadlet	
Hidden-ear Frog	
Rocket Frog	
Northern Spadefoot Toad	
Marbled Frog	
Northern Dwarf Tree Frog	
Centralian Tree Frog	
Cane Toad	

Which frog do you like the best? Why is it your favourite?



3.1 Flip the Frog Cards



Common Name: Desert Spadefoot Toad
Scientific Name: *Notaden nicholli*



Common Name: Green Tree Frog
Scientific Name: *Litoria caerulea*



Common Name: Dahl's Aquatic Frog
Scientific Name: *Litoria dahlia*



Common Name: Arnhem Toadlet
Scientific Name: *Uperoleia*



Common Name: Cane Toad
Scientific Name: *Bufo marinus*



Common Name: Hidden-ear Frog
Scientific Name: *Cyclorana cryptotis*

3.1 Flip the Frog Cards



Common Name: Roth's Tree Frog
Scientific Name: *Litoria rothii*



Common Name: Rocket Frog
Scientific Name: *Litoria nasuta*



Common Name: Wotjulum Frog
Scientific Name: *Litoria wotjulumensis*



Common Name: Northern Spadefoot Toad, Golfball frog
Scientific Name: *Notaden melanoscaphus*



Common Name: Giant Frog
Scientific Name: *Cyclorana australis*



Common Name: Marbled Frog
Scientific Name: *Limnodynastes convexisculus*

3.1 Flip the Frog Cards



Common Name: Ornate Burrowing Frog
Scientific Name: *Limnodynastes ornatus*



Common Name: Northern Dwarf Tree Frog
Scientific Name: *Litoria bicolor*



Common Name: Magnificent Tree Frog
Scientific Name: *Litoria splendida*



Common Name: Centralian Tree Frog
Scientific Name: *Litoria gilleni*



Common Name: Striped Burrowing Frog
Scientific Name: *Cyclorana alboguttata*



Common Name: Cane Toad
Scientific Name: *Bufo marinus*

3.2 NT Frog Research

Common Name:

Scientific Name:

Description:

Favourite Food:

Habitat:

Distribution:


Call:






3.3 Frog Calls

Your task is to listen to frog calls from the FROGWATCH NT website and describe the sounds they make.

Start by listening to the Green Tree Frog and Cane Toad.

Here are some tips to get you started:

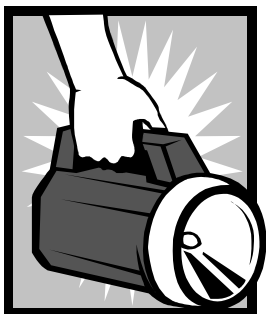
1. Go to www.frogwatch.org.au
2. Click on "FROG LISTS" on the top menu.
3. Click on a frog in the table (make sure it has a sound icon  next to it).
4. Click on "PLAY".
5. Listen to the frog call for a few seconds and then click "STOP".
6. Describe the sound of the frog call using letters or words or by writing the name of something that it sounds like.
7. Don't forget to write both the common name and scientific name of the frog in the table.

	Name of Frog	Similar Sound or "Phonetic Sound"
	<i>Green Tree Frog (Littoria caerulea)</i>	"Wark wark wark" My description:
	<i>Cane Toad (Bufo marinus)</i>	<i>Dial tone</i> My description:
		
		
		

3.4 Finding NT Frogs

Frogs are fascinating creatures. You will learn so much more about frogs if you get the chance to see some live frogs. Here are some tips to help you get up close to some frog friends and find out more about them!

- ✎ Go to a Frogwatch meeting. Frogwatch host regular cane toad/frog information sessions. They are usually advertised in the NT newspapers or you can log on to www.frogwatch.org.au to find out if there are any meetings in your area. You can even register with Frogwatch and be notified of frog related events via email!
- ✎ Visit the Territory Wildlife Park. There is an amphibian display showcasing some of the Northern Territories frogs and tadpoles. It may be a good idea to check with them before your visit to find out what frogs are on display and if there are any talks scheduled.
- ✎ The Parks and Wildlife Service hold 'Parks Alive' events. These are advertised regularly in the NT News. Or you could contact them to find out when the next event is.
- ✎ Contact the NT Museum to see what exciting displays they have in the Museum and Discovery Centre.
- ✎ Get out and find some frogs!



Frogs are easy to find in the Top End, especially in the wet season...

...all you need is a torch!

Search around your house. Get a torch each and you can go 'spotlighting' for frogs at night. Can you hear the frogs calling? Are there any on your windows and walls catching insects? Are they visiting the pond or pool in your backyard?

If there are 2 or 3 people, all point your torch beam at the spot you think the croaking is coming from. The point where all the light beams intersect is where the frog is hiding. Why not have a go. See if you can find that croaking frog using this method called 'triangulation'.

You could also go on a night expedition to a swamp, creeks or wetland one evening. These are exciting places to go spotlighting. Some possible locations include the Botanical Gardens, Knuckey Lagoons, Howard Springs and Fogg Dam. Or perhaps a large culvert beside the road!

The following tips will help make finding frogs safe and enjoyable for you and the frogs!

- ✎ *If you find a frog, it is best just to watch. Picking them up might harm them as they can absorb substances from our hands which will harm them.*
- ✎ *Leave any frogs where you found them. They are used to the environment they have been living in and they might not easily adjust to a new home!*
- ✎ *Make sure you read all warning signs about Crocodiles.*
- ✎ *Be careful near creeks and culverts, especially if there has been recent heavy rainfall.*
- ✎ *Be prepared for your visit. Make sure you cover-up with long trousers and a long sleeve shirt to avoid mosquitoes. If you are using insect repellent do not handle any frogs. It might poison them.*