

The American Toad

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Toads vs. Frogs

Both toads and frogs are in the order anura. Toads unlike frogs have bumpy rough skin that stays moist longer, shorter legs, and has glands behind its eyes that burn the eyes and mouths of predators.



Kathy Foust, December 10, 2015, <https://www.earthsfriends.com/toad-vs-frog/>

Habitat

Toads will live from forests to burrows in hills or even ponds. The American toad will often live in a burrow under a log or rock in a yard and will generally live near small wet lands or a pond to go to mate.

Predators and Defense

Rats, snakes, and birds will all go for a toad diner but the toad has some special skills to prevent this. A toad is capable to spot predators from a far with their almost all round vision and bulging eyes. If a smaller predator comes along a toad's path the toad will simply puff up to scare it away. Also those who have tasted toad have also tasted its poisonous paratoid gland have learned not to eat a toad.



Lockhart, Jessica, June 27, 2018, <https://cottagelife.com/outdoors/15-surprising-facts-about-canadas-snakes/>

Meal Time

Toads eat just about every insect that crosses its path catching it with its tongue than stuffing it into its mouth with its arms. A single toad can consume hundreds of bugs in a single day or rather night. Toads will eat slugs, snails, small snakes, and other bugs that come along their way.

Starting Their Life

Toads start out as eggs in strands attached to an under water weed. After a few days the embryo of the egg turns into a tadpole without a mouth, eyes, or tail even. Soon its skin has grown over the gills. The lungs grow and it loses its tail. After about three years the toad is full grown it is spring and the toads gather to ponds and pools to lay their eggs. A male American toad will attract females by letting out a trill. After that the lay and fertilize the eggs and the cycle starts over.



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