



Name: _____

Frogs vs. Toads: A Tale of Two Amphibians

Have you ever visited a pond on a summer evening and heard a chorus of "croaks"? Or perhaps you've been exploring a shady, damp part of your garden and seen a brown, bumpy creature sitting perfectly still. If so, you were likely looking at a frog or a toad!

Frogs and toads are cousins. They are both amphibians, which means they live a double life: part of their time is spent in the water, and part is spent on land. But even though they belong to the same family tree, frogs and toads have many distinct differences that help you tell them apart.

The first big clue is their skin. Think of a classic fairy tale where a princess kisses a "slimy" frog. Well, that description is often correct! Most frogs have skin that is very smooth, moist (wet), and slimy to the touch. Frogs must stay near water to keep their special skin from drying out.

Toads are different. They prefer drier environments, like gardens, and their skin has adapted to help them save water. A toad's skin is dry, rough, and covered in small bumps that often look like "warts." (But don't worry, you can't get warts from touching a toad!)

Look at how they move! A frog's favorite activity is jumping. They have very long, powerful hind legs and webbed back feet that make them champion leapers and fantastic swimmers. When they are on land, they take large, bouncy hops. A toad's legs are much shorter. Instead of jumping high, toads mostly move with short, fast hops, and sometimes they even walk or crawl. Because they prefer the shade, toads are often found hiding under leaves or digging into loose soil with their strong back legs.

Where you find them is another great hint. Because they need water to breathe through their skin, you will almost always find a frog living very close to a permanent water source, like a pond, lake, or marsh.

Toads, however, are more of "land lubbers." After they finish metamorphosis (changing from a tadpole), they often move away from the water. You are more likely to find a toad exploring a garden, a field, or the shady dirt under some trees.





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1. What does the word "amphibian" mean?

- A) An insect that can swim and fly.
- B) A cold-blooded animal with a backbone.
- C) A creature that spends part of its life in water and part on land.
- D) An animal that only eats plants.

2. Main Idea: What is the main idea of the section "Skin Secrets"?

- A) All frogs have skin that is purple and green.
- B) A frog's skin is bumpy, while a toad's skin is slimy.
- C) The main way to tell frogs and toads apart is by looking at their antennae.
- D) Frogs have smooth, moist skin, but toads have dry, bumpy skin.

3. Why did the author include the comparison about the princess kissing a slimy frog?

- A) To help the reader picture what frog skin feels like using a familiar story.
- B) To teach readers how to find a prince.
- C) To show that fairy tales are always scientifically accurate.
- D) To prove that frogs prefer living in castles.

4. Look at the section about how they move. How is a frog's movement different from a toad's movement?

- A) Frogs crawl, but toads take long jumps.
- B) Frogs take large, powerful hops, while toads take shorter, faster hops.
- C) Only toads can move; frogs always sit perfectly still.
- D) Frogs move with short, fast hops, but toads are known for their walking.

5. How does the illustration help you understand the text? _____
