

Background  
Info

# AMPHIBIA TRIVIA



Primitive amphibians lived more than 350 million years ago. They were the first vertebrates to make the move from life in water to life on land. The word “amphibian” comes from the Greek word *amphibios*, which means to live a double life. Most begin their lives in the water with tails and gills and then eventually develop legs and lungs to live on land. This is a process called metamorphosis. But some amphibians, like the mudpuppy, keep their gills and never leave the water.

Today, there are more than 5,000 species of amphibians in the world, with about 90% of them being frogs. They are classified into three main groups:

- 1 - frogs and toads with 4 legs and no tails
- 2 - salamanders and newts with 4 legs and long tails
- 3 - caecilians (aka blindworms) are legless with a very short tail

Amphibians are cold-blooded, meaning their bodies stay the same temperature as the air or water around them. Amphibians spend most of their time in water or in wet areas like marshes and wetlands. Amphibians live on every continent except Antarctica.

The Eastern Hellbender Salamander is the largest amphibian in North America. They can grow up to 30 inches, weigh 5 ½ pounds, and live about 30 years. The smallest amphibian, as well as the smallest frog in North America is the Little Grass Frog at ½ inch. The Bullfrog is the largest of all North American frogs.

Recent studies show amphibians are declining around the globe. There are currently more endangered amphibians than any other animal group, at 1,900 species, which is about 30 percent of all known amphibians in the world. It is estimated if the decline in the United States continues, amphibians will have disappeared from half the places they live, in about 30 years. Disease, habitat loss, invasive species, and pollution are main factors contributing to their decline. People can help amphibians by raising awareness and helping to protect amphibian habitats.

## Activity Instructions

# AMPHIBIA TRIVIA

*with Bob & Betsy Bullfrog*



Bob and Betsy have sticky tongues - just like real frogs! Whenever you answer a trivia question correctly, you can feed them. The more questions you get right, the happier they will be because Bullfrogs like to eat a lot!

- 🐸 Divide into two teams and pick a frog (either Bob or Betsy)
- 🐸 Put the deck of [Trivia Cards](#) “frog” side up
- 🐸 Open the box of bugs (their fuzzy side sticks to Bob’s or Betsy’s tongue)
- 🐸 First player from Team 1 picks a card from the trivia deck and asks the first player from Team 2 the question
- 🐸 If the Team 2 player answers correctly, they may feed their frog the indicated bug on the card and write down the earned point(s)
- 🐸 Now the next player from Team 2, asks the next player from Team 1 a question (take turns like this until all the cards are used up)

## TIPS

- 🐸 Read the answers so everyone can learn about amphibians
- 🐸 Keep Score (points are indicated on each card)
- 🐸 When you get enough answers right, you can remove 5 ladybugs OR 5 flies from your frog’s tongue, and exchange them for 1 dragonfly. Now add 1 bonus point to your score! (the ladybugs and flies can be used again)
- 🐸 After all the cards are used up, total your score! Highest score wins!

**Who ate the most? Bob or Betsy?!**

*Remember to return all the bugs back to their container when you are finished!*