



## Help Scientists Collect Frog Data! (Frog monitoring activity)



Almost every province and territory has a herpetologist collecting frog data as part of an international network of biologists and conservationists who are trying to save frogs. It takes a lot of work to monitor frogs across an entire country. Herpetologists need all the eyes and ears they can get to gather froggy data. The great news is that ANYBODY can monitor frogs.

The easiest method for kids to monitor frogs is calling surveys. This not only makes an immeasurable contribution to science it is a great way to introduce kids to their froggy neighbours. **Frog monitoring is a fun, educational opportunity that will help develop children's observational and listening skills, and their understanding of the importance of frogs and wetlands.**

**Please note** deciding to participate in a frog monitoring program requires a big commitment - taking part may not be suitable for younger children. Even if you feel your child or students are not ready to monitor frogs in the wild, playing the "Who's That Frog" ID game and completing the activity sheets is a great introduction to frogs and may encourage them to take part in frog monitoring programs in the future.

The following is a step by step suggestion of how you can involve your students or children in frog monitoring.

### Step 1

Decide if your class or children are ready to make the commitment required to participate in a frog monitoring activity. Take the following into account when making your decision.

### What kids need to monitor frogs:

**Adult supervision and support:** Kids who want to monitor frogs will need continued support and supervision from an adult. Kids should never go out into the wilderness without an adult. SAFETY ALWAYS!



## Step 1 con't

**Frog monitoring kit from a provincial co-ordinator:** A list of Canadian co-ordinators is included with the activity sheets. Most kits are available free of charge.

**Tape of frog calls:** You should be able to obtain them free of charge from co-ordinators, web sites or libraries. If not, some tapes of frog calls can be purchased.

**Frog Field Guide:** There are a number of good amphibian guides for frogs in your province or across Canada. Check your local library, local nature groups, used bookstores, new bookstores, and nature type stores.

**A Partner:** Frogs can hop away in a flash! It is always better to have two pairs of eyes. If you are listening for frogs it is easier to have one person listen closely for calls and one person to write down the data.

**Commitment:** If you are serious about participating in a frog monitoring program, be sure to know how much time you have to set aside for monitoring and how often. Scientists appreciate data that is collected carefully, and on a regular basis.

## Step 2

Get ready to monitor frogs.

### What to do to get started monitoring frogs:

- A. **Get what you need to start monitoring frogs.** Each province has different frog monitoring options available to them. Contact your provincial frog monitoring co-ordinator. A list of co-ordinators is provided with the activity sheets.

For more information visit the following web sites:

**NAAMP** - North American Amphibian Monitoring Program:  
[www.mp1-pwrc.usgs.gov/amphibs.html](http://www.mp1-pwrc.usgs.gov/amphibs.html)

**EMAN** - Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network:  
[eqb-dqe.cciw.ca/eman](http://eqb-dqe.cciw.ca/eman)



B. **Get to know your froggy neighbours.** Find out what frogs are found in your area. With the help of your provincial co-ordinator, amphibian guide and calling tapes learn what your froggy neighbours look and sound like.

- Print out each of the Frog Fact Sheets and post them on your classroom bulletin board or on your fridge at home. If you like, make copies for each student or pair of students. (NOTE: Fact sheets have only been provided for those frogs in the "Who's That Frog" online game. For more information on these or other frogs take a trip to the library or visit the NAAMP or EMAN web sites - see URLs above). Students may want to make their own fact sheets for additional frogs they have researched.
- Hold a discussion about the frogs from the fact sheets provided and any other frogs students have researched. Be sure to discuss the importance of monitoring frogs.
- Students can practice their frog ID skills with the Who's That Frog ID Activity located at - [www.ecokids.earthday.ca/pub/ecosmarts/frogs/frog\\_id/index.cfm](http://www.ecokids.earthday.ca/pub/ecosmarts/frogs/frog_id/index.cfm).
- Make enough copies of the Frog Scramble Match-up for each student (there are 3 pages). Ask each student to complete the activity sheets.

NOTE: depending on the size of your class and the number of computers available you might want to have half your class try the online activity while the other half completes the Frog Scramble Match-up, then switch.

C. **Hop to it! Go out and monitor frogs.** Make sure you record your data carefully on the survey form provided by your frog monitoring co-ordinator. All the data you collect from NAAMP surveys will be added to data from all across Canada. Scientists studying frog populations all over the world can then use the data.



## Canadian Frog Monitoring Programs: Co-ordinators List

Keep in mind that the co-ordinators for these programs are often volunteering their own time to do so.

So please, give them time to respond to your inquiries.

In the last couple of years frog monitoring in Canada has been taking a giant leap forward. We are in the process of up-dating the list of co-ordinators to make sure that the most recent info is provided. Contact information will be added for each province and territory as we receive it. This list is being compiled from information gathered from the NAAMP web site the assistance of Brian Craig of the Ecological Monitoring Assessment Agency and with assistance from each co-ordinator.

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### **Newfoundland & Labrador**

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#### **Nova Scotia**

Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History  
1747 Summer St., Halifax NS B3H 3A6  
[www.museum.government.ns.ca/mnh/educ/frogwtch/index.htm](http://www.museum.government.ns.ca/mnh/educ/frogwtch/index.htm)

If you have Internet access, start your info search from the Museum's web site. The calling survey is called "FrogWatch." It focuses on the northern spring peeper. FrogWatch is part of NAAMP.

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### **Prince Edward Island**

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There is no monitoring program in PEI. Rosemary Curley at the Fish and Wildlife Branch of the PEI Dept. of the Environment suggests using materials from other provincial programs such as Nova Scotia or contacting NAAMP (email: [naamp.usgs.government](mailto:naamp.usgs.government)). There are four types of frogs found in the island, they are: spring peeper, wood frog, green frog, and leopard frog.

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## Canadian Frog Monitoring Programs: Co-ordinators List

### New Brunswick

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#### Quebec

David Rodrigue  
Quebec Amphibian Populations Monitoring Program, St. Lawrence  
Valley History Society  
21125, chemin Ste-Marie, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue QC H9X 3Y7  
tel: (514) 457-9449  
fax: (514)457-0769  
e-mail: ecomus@total.net

Listen for frogs in wetlands and ponds. Mr. Rodrigue is a Calling Amphibian Coordinator for NAAMP. If you are serious about becoming involved in frog monitoring contact Mr. Rodrigue who will be happy to discuss the time commitment and other details of the program.

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#### Ontario

Marsh Monitoring Program  
c/o Long Point Bird Observatory  
P.O. Box 160, Port Rowan ON NOE 1M0  
tel. (519) 586-3531 fax. (519) 586-3532  
[www.bsc-eoc.org](http://www.bsc-eoc.org)

The MMP has been very successful. Volunteers assess the health of Ontario's marshes through roadside counts of amphibians at night. Volunteers are always needed.

Frogwatch-Ontario  
Toronto Zoo, 361 A Old Finch Ave.  
Scarborough ON M1B 5K7  
Fax: (416) 392-4979 or 1-888-31-FROGS  
[www.cciw.ca/eman-temp/ecowatch/adoptapond](http://www.cciw.ca/eman-temp/ecowatch/adoptapond)

This is a relatively new program. Schools can ask for educational materials (curriculum guides, tapes, and advice) to help them learn more about and take action for wetland habitats and frog watching

Data collected is sent to Environment Canada and the Min. of Natural Heritage's Information Centre.



## Canadian Frog Monitoring Programs: Co-ordinators List

Manitoba

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Saskatchewan

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Alberta

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British Columbia

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**Yukon Territory**

Brian Slough  
35 Cronkhite Road  
Whitehorse YT Y1A 5S9  
tel. (867) 668-3295 fax. (867) 633-3890  
e-mail: [bslough@yknet.yk.ca](mailto:bslough@yknet.yk.ca)

There is no formal monitoring program in the Yukon but Mr. Slough does want to hear about sightings. He recommends that Yukon educators obtain the brochure "Frogs, Toads, and Salamanders: Amphibians of the Yukon and Northern British Columbia" from the Yukon Dept. of Renewable Resources. If you would like to establish a monitoring program contact Mr. Slough for assistance.

For more info visit the Yukon Frog Watch site at:  
[eqb-dqe.cciw.ca/emanops/frogwatch/yukon](http://eqb-dqe.cciw.ca/emanops/frogwatch/yukon)

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Northwest Territories

# BLANCHARD'S CRICKET FROG



**Scientific name:** *Acris crepitans blanchardi*

**Other names:**

Northern cricket frog,  
grasshopper frog

**Status:**

In Canada, the Blanchard's cricket frog is endangered. Some scientists think that there aren't any cricket frogs left in Canada.



## Identifying Marks

- Greenish/brown, gray or black colour
- White belly
- Black triangle between the eyes
- Rough skin
- Grow up to 4 cm long

## Where they live in Canada

- Only found on Pelee Island in southern Ontario.

## Habitat

- Live in marshes, ponds, deep ditches or slow moving streams.

## Call

- Sounds like pebbles being clicked together.

## Cool Facts

- Can jump 160 cm - that's 40 times it's own length.

# BULLFROG

Scientific name: *Rana catesbeiana*

## Status:

In some places, such as Ontario, bullfrog populations are low. In other places such as British Columbia there are too many bullfrogs.



## Identifying Marks

- Pale green to dark greenish/brown colour
- Creamy white belly
- Male has a dark yellow throat and eardrum twice the size of its eye.
- Can grow up to 17 cm long

## Where they live in Canada

- British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

## Habitat

- Need large areas of water to breed, but may live part of the summer in smaller ponds.
- Usually found along the shore where there are lots of plants growing.

## Call

- Very deep call. Sounds like it is saying "Jug-o-rum"

## Cool Facts

- The biggest frog found in North America.

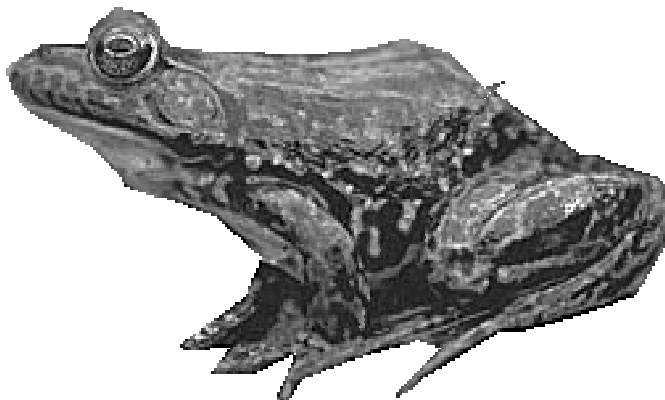
# MI NK FROG



Scientific name: *Rana septentrionalis*

**Status:**

Mink frog populations appear to be good.



**Identifying Marks**

- Olive green to brown colour
- Yellow belly
- Dark spots on side and on hind legs
- Large eardrum
- Grows up to 7 cm long

**Where they live in Canada**

- Eastern Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Labrador.

**Habitat**

- Usually found in large cold ponds, lakes or slow moving rivers with lots of plants.
- Not very common to find one on land.

**Call**

- Sounds like the quick tapping of a metal hammer on wood.

**Cool Facts**

- Have a musky smell - that's how they got their name.



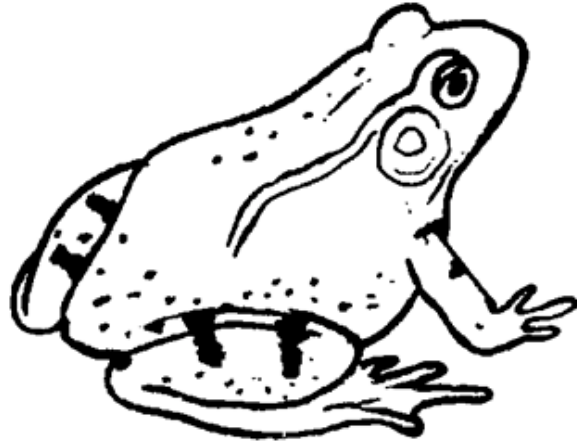
# GREEN FROG



**Scientific name:** *Rana clamitans*  
**Other names:** true frog

## Status:

Population is good in most places. Not very many green frogs in Manitoba.



## Identifying Marks

- Green, brown or bronze colour
- Green upper lip
- White belly with dark lines or spots
- Dark bars on hind legs
- Males have bright yellow throats and ear drums twice the size of their eyes
- 6 cm to 10 cm long

## Where they live in Canada

- southern British Columbia, eastern Manitoba, southern Ontario, southern Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland.

## Habitat

- Most common in places with warm, shallow water - swamps, brooks, and the edges of ponds or lakes

## Call

- Sounds like the "twang" of a banjo string

## Cool Facts

- Green frogs hibernate under water.



# SPRING PEEPER



**Scientific name:** *Psuedacris crucifer*

**Other names:** tree frog

## **Status:**

Populations are doing good in most places where spring peepers are found. They have disappeared from Toronto, Ontario - probably from loss of habitat.



## **Identifying Marks**

- Tan to dark brown to gray colour
- Black X on back
- Large pads on toes
- 2cm to 3 cm long

## **Where they live in Canada**

- eastern Manitoba, Ontario, southern Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island.

## **Habitat**

- Mostly found in woodland ponds
- Will breed almost anywhere there is water

## **Call**

- Loud "Peep!", that is repeated over and over

## **Cool Facts**

- A whole chorus of spring peepers can be heard from more than half a kilometre away.



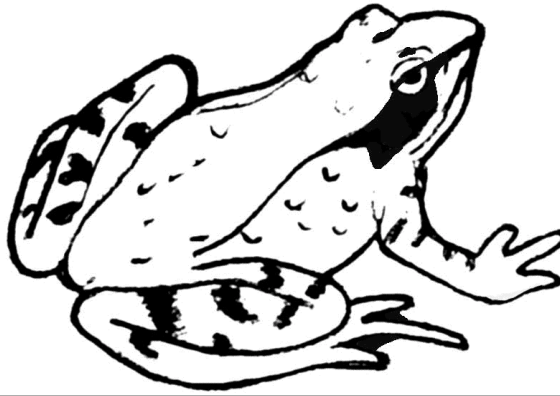
# WOOD FROG



**Scientific name:** *Rana silvatica*  
**Other names:** robber frog

## Status:

There are lots of wood frogs found in many different places.



## Identifying Marks

- Tan to dark brown or reddish colour
- White belly
- Black mask on face
- White line on top lip
- 3.5 cm to 8 cm long

## Where they live in Canada

- Found in every province and territory of Canada

## Habitat

- Mostly found in woodlands
- Can also be found in Northern tundra or in grasslands

## Call

- Sounds like a quacking duck

## Cool Facts

- Can quickly change from a very dark colour to a very light colour. Turn a darker colour in the cold to absorb more heat.



# Who's That Frog? Frog Scramble Match-up Activity



## Instructions

On page 2 are the names of 6 frogs - but the letters are all jumbled up. Unscramble the letters to spell out the name of each frog.

When you have unscrambled the names match them up with the frog pictures on page 3. Just write the name on the line beside the frog.

Be careful! There are more names than there are frogs.

## When you're done:

Colour in each frog - do you know what colour each one should be? (if you are not sure check out the Frog Fact Sheets)

Visit the EcoSmarts area of EcoKids Online and use your eyes and ears to ID more Canadian frogs and some frogs from around the world.

[www.ecokids.earthday.ca](http://www.ecokids.earthday.ca)

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Who's That Frog? Frog Scramble Match-up Activity



1.

EPPSERPNGIR

\_\_\_\_\_

2.

RODFGOOW

\_\_\_\_\_

3.

ULBGORFL

\_\_\_\_\_

4.

GRRFOEGEN

\_\_\_\_\_

5.

RGFODRAPOEL

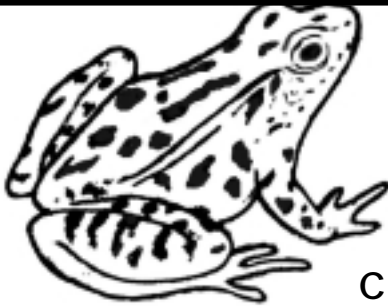
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6.

ONKI MRFG

\_\_\_\_\_

# Who's That Frog? Frog Scramble Match-up Activity



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**CLUE:** This frog has spots just like a kind of big cat with the same name

\_\_\_\_\_

**CLUE:** If you listen you might here a *PEEP-PEEP-PEEP* from this frog



\_\_\_\_\_

**CLUE:** Just think of Kermit the frog

\_\_\_\_\_

**CLUE:** named after something you can make paper from



## Who's That Frog?

### Frog Scramble Match-up Activity

(teachers copy)



#### Instructions

Print out all 3 pages of the activity and make enough copies so that each student has a set of handouts.

On page 2 are the jumbled up names of 6 frogs. Have students unscramble the letters to spell out the name of each frog.

When they have unscrambled the names ask students to match them up with the frog pictures on page 3. Just have them write the name on the line beside the frog.

Be careful! There are more names than there are frogs.

#### Activity Extension:

Have students colour in each frog.

Have students visit the EcoSmarts area of EcoKids Online and use your eyes and ears to ID more Canadian frogs and some frogs from around the world in the Who's That Frog Activity -

[www.ecokids.earthday.ca](http://www.ecokids.earthday.ca)

Teachers notes and student handouts are available to download with the activity.

Who's That Frog?  
Frog Scramble Match-up Activity  
(teachers copy)



1. EPPSERPNGI R  
SPRING PEEPER

2. RODFGOOW  
WOOD FROG

3. ULBGORFL  
BULLFROG

4. GRRFOEGEN  
GREEN FROG

5. RGFODRAPOEL  
LEOPARD FROG

6. ONKI MRFG  
MINK FROG



# Who's That Frog?

## Frog Scramble Match-up Activity

(teachers copy)



Leopard Frog

**CLUE:** This frog has spots just like a kind of big cat with the same name

Spring Peeper



**CLUE:** If you listen you might here a *PEEP-PEEP-PEEP* from this frog



Green frog

**CLUE:** Just think of Kermit the frog

Wood Frog



**CLUE:** named after something you can make paper from