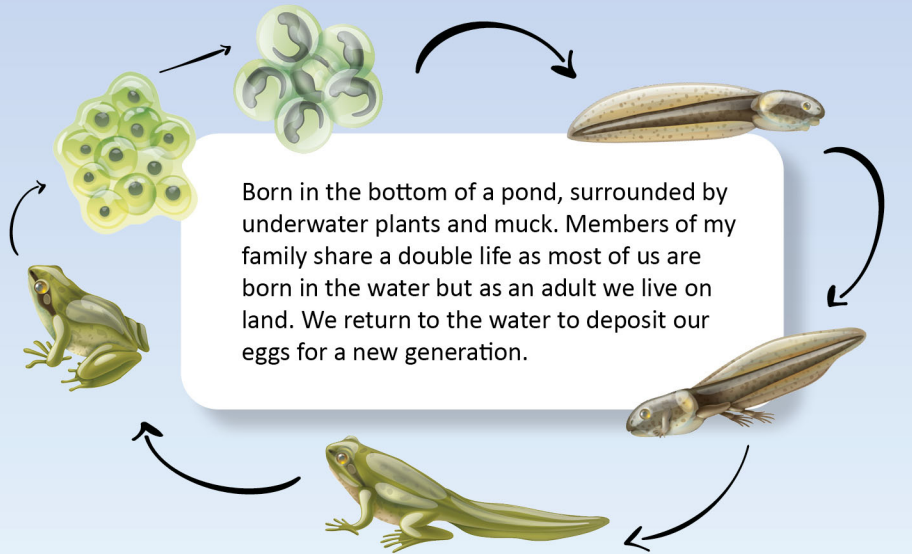


FOCUS ON FROGS

At this time of year you may be hearing the high pitched call of frogs and toads. In this Nature at Home series, we will concentrate on the special features of frogs.

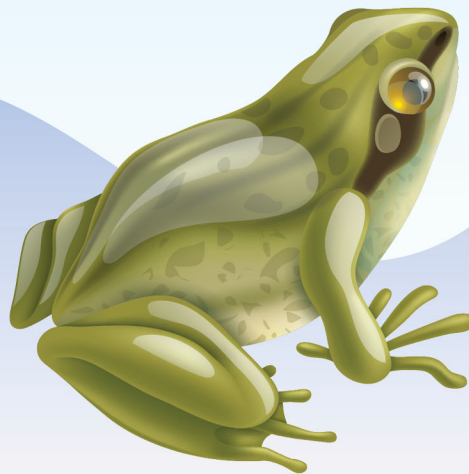


Born in the bottom of a pond, surrounded by underwater plants and muck. Members of my family share a double life as most of us are born in the water but as an adult we live on land. We return to the water to deposit our eggs for a new generation.

I am found in damp or moist locations. My skin has to stay moist or I will not survive, but that doesn't mean you should leave me under water or else I will drown. As an adult, I lose my gills and breathe air.

I may have spots and am recognized by my very wide grin and smile. You would be correct in calling my lumpy, bumpy brothers and sisters toads, because they are also in my family known as frogs.

I am known as an amphibian. I am born in the water but I spend most of my adult life on land. In the winter, I hide out under the mud and muck as my heartbeat slows down in hibernation. I wake up and emerge in the spring. Can you hear me calling my mates?



I AM VERY CUTE but if your dog tries to eat me they will get sick. So, keep it on a leash when visiting me around your neighbourhood or in your backyard.

You can call my frog family members: Pickerel; Peeper; Chorus or Woody; Leopard; Gray or Greenie; or Bull. I don't have a phone but use my voice to call my mates from as far away as 4 kilometres.

I don't have any obvious teeth when I am born. As an adult I still don't have any visible teeth. I guess that is why I like to eat worms. My sticky tongue traps all the food I need to eat when I shoot out my tongue to capture prey.