# DISCOVER. CONNECT. TAKEACTION.

Discover the natural world with these fun at-home activities!

BLANK PARK

# FROGS AT BLANK PARK ZOO

Did you know that there are numerous species of frogs at the Blank Park Zoo? There are! Most can be seen in the Discovery Center.

#### • Panamanian Golden Frog

- These frogs are diurnal, meaning that they are most active during the day.
- · Currently off-exhibit.

#### Yellow-Banded Poison Dart Frog

- Also called the "Bumblebee Poison Dart Frog" for its distinctive, yellow and black-striped body.
- Green-and-Black Poison Dart Frog
  - Their habitat includes tropical and subtropical rainforest trees and leaf litter on the damp rainforest floor.
- Golfodulcean Poison Dart Frogs
  - This species commonly resides in lowland, wet forest areas throughout Costa Rica and other Central American countries, including Panama.
- White's Tree Frogs
  - They have a milky white coating which helps them survive in dry areas.



# Frog vs. Toad

Frogs and toads are a lot alike. They are both amphibians. Toads are a subclassification of frogs, meaning that all toads are frogs, but not all frogs are toads.

# **Frogs**

Skin is sleek and smooth

Need to stay near water

Legs longer than their body Amphibians

Carnivores

Metamorphosis

Lay eggs in water

#### **Toads**

Skin is warty looking

Cope better with dry conditions

Legs shorter than their body



# PANAMANIAN GOLDEN FROG

## What is the problem?

Populations of Panama's national animal, the Panamanian Golden Frog, have been in serious decline due to pollution, loss of habitat, the illegal pet trade and a deadly fungal disease called chytrid.



## What is being done to help?

Project Golden Frog's primary goal is to preserve the culturally significant golden frog though conservation breeding programs, field studies, and educational programs.

# They continually strive for the following:

- · to increase the understanding of the species biology of the golden frog
- a heightened awareness of global amphibian decline worldwide, using golden frogs as a model species for worldwide conservation efforts
- an increased respect among global citizens concerning wildlife
- · support habitat preservation for threatened and endangered species throughout the world

# Discover. Connect. Take Action.

# Did you know?!

There are 17 species of frogs and toads in lowa

# How can you help frogs?

- · Leave wild animals where you find them.
- Keep waterways litter free by disposing of trash properly.
- Encourage toads to live in your garden by providing dark, damp places to hide during the day.
- Teach others about amphibians and their special habitats!

## **Create Frog Habitat**

Having amphibians like frogs and toads living around your home is great!

Not only is it enjoyable to hear frogs and toads singing during the spring and summer, frogs and toads eat lots of invertebrates such as mosquitos, ticks and slugs. To create frog habitat, you have to think like a frog.

Scan this QR code to find a check list of how you can encourage frogs to live in your backyard!

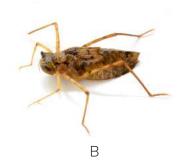


# **Metamorphosis Match**

After hatching into a larval form, most amphibians undergo a dramatic change known as metamorphosis. During this change, the larvae slowly changes from a fish-like, water-dwelling animal to a terrestrial animal that is better suited to living on land.

Amphibians aren't the only animals that go through the process of metamorphosis. Can you match the animals below with their larval form?











Monarch Butterfly



Panamanian Golden Frog



Ladybug



Dragonfly

# **Frog Calls**

Similar to birds, each frog species has a unique call that helps wildlife biologists (and frog enthusiasts) identify species. Some frog calls are easy to replicate.

Can you replicate the calls of these common Iowa frog species?



## **Green frog**

The green frog is Iowa's second largest frog and can be found on the eastern side of the state. Its call sounds similar to a broken banjo string.

Try replicating its call by looping a rubber bands over an empty coffee can and strumming them like a guitar.



# **Boreal chorus frog**

The boreal chorus frog is one of Iowa's smallest frogs and can be found statewide. Its call is one of the more recognizable frog calls. When these frog call in large groups, their loud "pprreeep" calls can be heard for some distance.

Try replicating its call by running your thumbnail down a plastic comb.



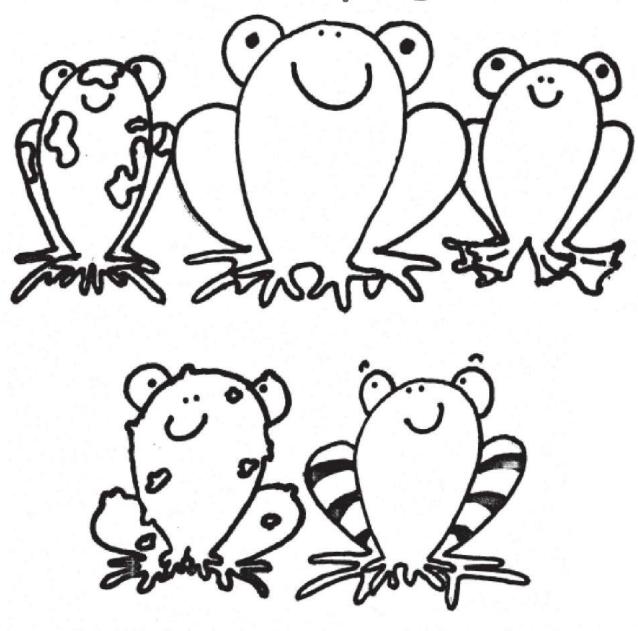
## Blanchard's cricket frog

Blanchard's cricket frog is another small species of Iowa frog that can be found across the state. In recent years, its population has been in steady decline. Its call is a series of clicks that sounds like rocks tapped together.

Try replicating its call by clicking together two marbles. You might even get a frog to respond to you!

Photo source: http://www.herpnet.net/Iowa-Herpetology/

Project Golden Frog helps my other frog friends while helping me!



iProyecto Rana Dorada me ayuda mientras ayuda otras ranas!

# You can help me too!

- Don't take me or my friends from the forest
- Don't pollute the water
- Recycle and Reuse everything that you can
- Throw trash in the trash can, not on the ground
- Turn off the water whole brushing your teeth
- Wash your clothes and shoes with bleach or Lysol after you are in the forest
- Teach others about me!!!!!

# iUsted me puede ayudar también!

- no me saques a mí o a mis amigos de los bosques
- · no contamine el agua
- · recicla todo lo que puedas
- Tira la basura en su lugar y no en el suelo o en la calle
- cierra la llave del el agua mientras que cepillas tus dientes
- laven su ropa y zapatos con cloro o lysol después de haber estado en el bosque
- iEnseña a los otros acerca de mí!



