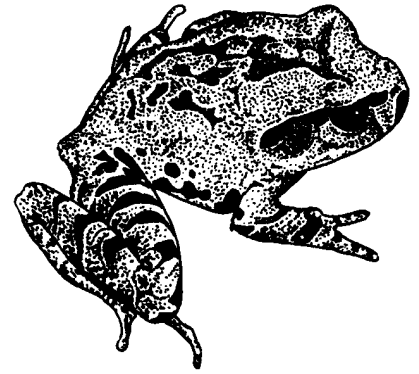


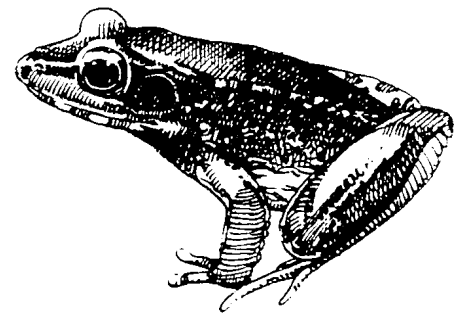
Tropical Factsheets

Frog facts

- Frogs appeared on Earth about 200 million years ago. (We arrived about two million years ago.) There are over 4000 species in the world and over 200 species in Australia.
- Australia's tropical rainforests are home to **25%** of Australia's frog species.
- Frogs which live near noisy, fast flowing streams can't always hear mating calls above the roar of water. Instead, they signal their intentions by **waving** to prospective partners!
- The tadpole of the **Northern Barred Frog** (*Mixophyes schevilli*) is the largest in Australia growing up to 16cm long (longer than a pen). These tadpoles are important in the forest because they eat and recycle large quantities of leaves.
- The frog with the longest leap in Australia lives in the Wet Tropics. The 75mm **Wood Frog** (*Rana daemeli*) can cover a distance of about 2.5m in a single bound. That's like a human jumping 200 metres!
- Some rainforest tadpoles take over a year to change into frogs.
- All frog eggs laid in open ponds have a **black patch** at the top. This is a filter which cuts out the damaging ultraviolet rays of the sun which would otherwise harm the developing tadpoles.
- Frogs' eyes bulge out giving them **all-round vision**. They also help the frog **swallow**. When the frog catches a mouthful of food its eyes sink through an opening in the skull and force food down its throat.
- Many frogs produce chemicals on their skin which help to protect them from bacteria and fungi.
- Scientists are using frogs to develop medicines for different diseases. A chemical compound which comes from the skin of **Green Tree Frogs** is used as a gut stimulant after abdominal surgery and also to block schizophrenia symptoms.
- Other frog compounds contract and expand blood vessels, make hearts beat more strongly, help digest food, combat viruses and may eventually be used to repel mosquitoes and act as **sunscreen**.



Northern Barred Frog



Wood Frog