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## FROGS – Adaptations – SLIDE SHOW SCRIPT (Grades K-2)

### 1. GREEN FROG

Frogs belong to a group of animals called amphibians. Amphibians are creatures that spend some part of their life in the water.

### 2. TOAD

Toads, like frogs, are also amphibians. They, too, spend a portion of their life in the water, though you may be more likely to see a toad hopping in your garden or in the woods. Can you guess what part of its life a toad spends in water?

### 3. TOAD EGGS

. . . The first part. Frogs and toads begin life as eggs laid in water. Toad eggs, like those in this picture, are laid in strings or tubes of jelly. Can you see the black spots that are the baby toads inside the eggs?

### 4. WOOD FROG EGGS

Amphibian eggs always have a soft jelly-like covering. These are wood frog eggs, laid early in the spring. Frog eggs are usually in bunches. What does a baby frog or toad look like when it hatches? Like a grown-up frog or toad?

### 5. POLLIWOGS - TADPOLES

No. It looks like this, and it is called a . . . (pause) . . . tadpole or polliwog. What are these tadpoles missing that a frog would have? (*possible answers: legs, big mouth, lungs*) What does a tadpole have that a toad or frog doesn't have? (*a tail, gills*) Tadpoles breathe under water through gills, like fish. They have tiny mouths and eat algae and pond animals. Their eyes are small and are on the sides of their head.

### 6. YOUNG FROG WITH TAIL

Many changes happen on the inside and outside of a tadpole as it turns into a frog. It grows legs – first the hind legs, then the front. Its tail disappears. It develops lungs and loses its gills. The eyes move toward the top of the head and the mouth grows larger and wider. How does it help a frog to have eyes high on its head? To have a big mouth?

### 7. FLY ON LEAF

Grown-up frogs and toads eat insects – lots of them. Anything that moves and is small enough to swallow might be supper for a frog. Frogs have long, sticky tongues to catch flies, and their wide mouths help trap them.

### 8. HERON

Frogs and toads might also be food for other animals. Herons, hawks, owls, foxes, raccoons and snakes all eat frogs. How would you keep from being eaten if **you** were a frog?

### 9. ADULT FROG

You might use your strong hind legs to leap or swim away. Or your slippery skin might help you slip away from a hungry predator.

10. PEEPER ON FERN

If you were a peeper, you might escape by climbing a plant! Tree frogs have special feet that help them climb and hold on.

11. TOAD IN HAND

If you were a toad, your skin would not be smooth and slippery, but bumpy and rough. The color and texture of a toad's skin sometimes makes it hard to see. Although toads don't hop as fast as frogs, and they don't swim in water to escape, they have another special protection. They have poison in their skin in the two big bumps behind their eyes. If an animal bites a toad, it gets a bad taste and spits the toad out. The poison is not harmful to us if we are just picking up a toad.

12. WINTER POND

Where do you think frogs and toads spend the winter? Most kinds of frogs find a place to hibernate. Since they are cold-blooded and cannot create their own heat, most frogs spend the winter where they won't freeze. Some go to the bottom of ponds . . .

13. FOREST FLOOR

Some burrow into the soil below the frost line. Others find space in fallen logs or rock crevices, or they may just crawl as far as they can under leaf litter.

14. POND

When spring comes, toads and frogs gradually awaken and begin to move about. If they're not already in the water, they make their way to ponds, puddles, or pools, and males start singing. Why do they sing? (*Many sing to help females find them. Some sing to defend territory.*) After mating, the females lay eggs like those we saw earlier.

15. WOOD FROG – WITH AUDIO

Each kind of male frog has its own song. This may sound like a duck, but it's really the song of the wood frog. As their name suggests, wood frogs live in the woods. Their color makes them hard to find, but you might see one hopping in the leaves.

16. SPRING PEEPER – WITH AUDIO

When a frog sings, his throat blows up like a balloon. This spring peeper is a tiny frog, about as big as your thumb.

17. AMERICAN TOAD – WITH AUDIO

If you couldn't see what was making this sound, would you know it was a toad? The toad's song can be heard half a mile away.

18. GREEN FROG – WITH AUDIO

The green frog's call sounds like the twang of a banjo string being plucked.

19. BULL FROG – WITH AUDIO

The bull frog is the granddaddy of frogs. He has a deep voice, and some people think his song sounds like "jug-o-rum."

When you're outside on a spring evening, stop and listen around ponds, marshes, and other fresh water. If you hear these songs, you'll know that a frog or toad is living nearby!