



## Frog Call Lookup

By Tom J. McConnell



Stop and listen! Do you hear chirping, croaking, clicking or peeping near a pond, creek or marsh? Those are probably frogs! In this activity, you can learn to tell what species of frogs live in around your home just by listening!

**Driving Question:** What species of frogs and toads can I hear in my neighborhood?

### Objectives:

- I can use my senses to observe wildlife near my home.
- I can observe differences in the calls of frogs.
- I can keep a record of frog calls I hear.



### Background

Most of us live in places where there are frogs and toads. You might see them if walk along the shore of a pond or lake, a stream or a wetland. But frogs are shy, and they spend much of their time hiding from predators, and from you! So it can be hard to figure out what kind of frogs live around your home.

But you don't have to see frogs to identify them! Scientists who study frogs learn to identify them just by listening for their calls! Frogs are one of the few groups of animals that use their voices to find a mate, and each species has a unique call.

Scientists use the calls to understand what time of year each species of frog lays eggs, where they live, and when they might be disappearing because of loss of habitat or because of pollution. These are important ways to understand and protect frogs and other amphibians.

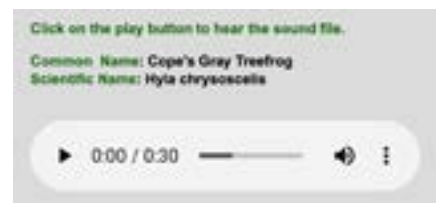
With practice, and using recordings of calls to help, YOU can learn to identify frogs by their calls, too! Conservation Tales has located some online resources you can use. Follow the steps on the next page, and then use the data log on the last page to keep a record of what frog species you hear at different times of the year.



## Frog Call Lookup

### Procedure:

1. The U.S. Geological Survey has a website that lets you look up a list of frog species in your state, and to listen to recordings of their calls. Go to the [USGS Frog Call Quizzes](#) page, and select your state from the “state/province” search menu. This will give you a list of frogs you can find in your area.
2. Pick one of the frogs found near you, and return to the [Frog Call Quizzes](#) page. Select that species from the “Common name” or “Scientific name” list.
3. You will see a play button that lets you listen to the call of that frog or toad.
4. Now it’s time to listen around your home! Go outside or near an open window and listen for frogs and toads! Most of the time amphibians call in the evening. Some call during the day, and some later at night. You can use a tablet, a smart phone, or a laptop to use the Frog Call recordings to compare to the sounds you hear.
5. Use the Frog Call Log on the next page to keep a record of what species you hear.
  - a. Include the date when hear the call on the data table.
  - b. You can also record note about where you hear the calls. Are they found next to a pond? Near a tree? In a wet place in your yard?
  - c. Notes about the weather can help you find patterns about frog activity. Do they call after a rain storm? What temperature is it when they call?If you keep this log over an entire year, this can help you discover what time of year the frogs start to call!



### Extend the Activity

You can ask your own questions that can be answered using Frog Call data! You can also extend your learning to include other ways to observe amphibians.

- Go to where you hear frogs or toads and look for them. If it’s dark, use a flashlight. Sometimes you will see their eyes. For some species, you need to look on the trunks and branches of trees!
- Look up the species you hear on [Herpmapper.org](#). This can show where and when other people have seen these species. You can even enter your own observations!



