

# UNFROGETTABLE ANSWERS!

## 1. Frogs, toads, newts, salamanders and caecilians are all types of amphibian (C)

You say the word like this am-fib-ee-an. It comes from an old Greek word that means "both kinds of life" because amphibians live part of their life in water and part on land.

All newts belong to the salamander family, but newts have dry, bumpy skin and salamanders have smooth, wet skin like a frog's.

Caecilians (pronounced 'seh-SILL-yuns') are limbless amphibians that look a bit like worms or snakes. Have a look at them online – they are amazing!

## 2. The amphibians are circled and the reptiles underlined.

GREAT CRESTED NEWT    SLOW WORM    ADDER    KERMIT

GRASS SNAKE    PALMATE NEWT    COMMON FROG

COMMON TOAD    SAND LIZARD    SMOOTH SNAKE

NATTERJACK TOAD    COMMON LIZARD    SMOOTH NEWT

In Greenwich Peninsula Ecology Park, we have Common Frogs, Common Toads and Smooth Newts

## 3. Neville Longbottom's toad in the Harry Potter books is called Trevor.

## 4. When a frog changes shape as it grows, from frogspawn to tadpole to froglet to frog, this is called metamorphosis (D)

Metamorphosis is a series of physical changes that some animals, including many insects, go through during their life cycle. The young are dramatically different from the adults - think of a caterpillar changing into a butterfly. As humans, we don't undergo metamorphosis - we grow and change very gradually, keeping the same basic body shape. It usually takes about 12 weeks (B) for frogspawn to develop into an adult frog?

**5. It usually takes about 12 weeks (B) for frogspawn to develop into an adult frog.**

It can take longer if the water is cold. Out of the 2000 eggs laid as frogspawn, only about 5 make it to become an adult frog!

**6. A froglet – the stage between a tadpole and an adult frog – has a tail. When it finally becomes an adult frog, the tail is reabsorbed back into the body (C)**

There's a good word for this – apoptosis! Frog bodies undergo fast and dramatic changes to adapt from life in the water to life on land. Tadpoles have to lose their gills and grow lungs to become a froglet and the froglet then has to lose its tail (which it doesn't need on land).

Apoptosis is programmed cell death – the frog's body tells it to destroy cells in the tail and reabsorbs the resulting mush back into its body – amazing, isn't it!

**7. Freddo is the chocolate frog that started life in Australia and was introduced to the UK by Cadburys in 1973. It's still going strong.**

**8. An adult frog eats all the things that are circled:**

SLUGS	GRASS	FLOWERS	CHIPS	ANTS
FLIES	BURGERS	BEETLES	WORMS	SEEDS
TOAST	BUTTERFLIES	SNAILS	MOTHS	PASTA

Frogs are carnivores, which means they eat other animals. They catch their prey with their long sticky tongues.

**9. A common frog uses its eyes (A) to help swallow its food whole!**

A frog can push its eyes back into its head in a kind of blink to help push food down its throat!

**10. Frogs hibernate or go to sleep (D) in winter.**



Frogs hibernate because it is too cold for them– they are ectothermic or cold blooded and rely on the warmth of their surroundings to stay active. In winter, they also run low on food – many of the minibeasts that they eat die off or hibernate themselves over the winter.

### **11. ALL of these animals will eat frogs!**

FOXES      SNAKES      CATS      HERONS      HEDGEHOGS      DOGS

CROWS      WEASELS      BADGERS      OTTERS      STOATS      RATS      OWLS

Frogs have lots of natural predators but humans have added tow more to the list - domestic cats and dogs. Both may catch and kill frogs though won't always eat them.

### **12. UK frogs, toads and newts mainly rely on camouflage (D) to deter or put off these predators.**

Common frogs can be brown, yellowish, reddish or green but they will always be a similar colour to their surroundings. Many amphibians can also gradually change colour according to their surroundings and the temperature.

### **13. Mr Toad features in the famous book, “The Wind in the Willows”**

### **14. An adult frog breathes both through its mouth and lungs (A) and also through its skin (B)**

Frogs can absorb oxygen and water directly through their skin and they have lots of blood vessels near the surface of the skin to carry the oxygen around their body. To make this work properly, a frog's skin must stay moist at all times.

A tadpole breathes through feathery looking gills that stick out from its body and only starts to develop lungs when it grows its legs.

### **15.The Common Toad's poison is called bufotoxin (C)**

These parotoid glands are distinctive bulges on the back of the head. They produce a milky fluid which contains substances that are very irritating to your skin, will make you dribble a lot and will make you feel sick and breathless. Most animals that try and eat a toad will quickly drop it again after one taste!

## **16. Frogs, toads and newts are disappearing because of A, B, C and D!**

Ponds in gardens and in the countryside are often filled in or built over. A fungal disease appears to be a major factor in amphibian decline worldwide, especially in tropical habitats. Every year, toads get squished on roads as they attempt to reach their breeding ponds but volunteers go out on Toad Patrols to help rescue them! Frogs are very sensitive to pollution – things like fertilizers, weed killers, pesticides, and detergents. This is because they breathe and absorb water through their skin. The chemicals can easily enter their bodies through the skin.

**17. Flushed Away is the excellent cartoon film where French frogs are in league with an evil toad trying to get the better of rats in a sewer (the one with the singing slugs!)**

**18. The Goliath Frog (B) is the world's biggest frog**

They grow up to 34cm long and can weigh up to 3.3 kg. They are only found in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, where they live near streams.

**19. The underlined are the REAL frog names!**

WAXY MONKEY TREE FROG

TOMATO FROG

SHEEP FROG

QUACKING FROG

PIG FROG

MEOWING NIGHT FROG

BUMPY ROCKET FROG

PINOCCHIO FROG

POTATO FROG

GUINEA SCREECHING FROG

MOUNTAIN CHICKEN FROG

BARE HEARTED GLASS FROG

WALLACES FLYING FROG

**20. Jeremy Fisher said "I shall eat a butterfly sandwich and wait till the shower is over" whilst fishing for minnows in the Beatrix Potter storybook**

