

# A FROG HOUSE

## Annual Save the Frogs Day 2024 Biosphere

Find the plants, animals, and habitats right in our backyard! Take a photo as close to the original photos as possible, and test your knowledge of our local ecosystem. Have fun!



### 1. Vernal Pools

Vernal pools are areas in woodlands that fill with runoff from melting snow and spring rain. They usually dry up by summer when they are harder to identify. Check the true statement about vernal pools:

- A. They are avoided by frogs
- B. Frogs and toads breed in them
- C. Have fish that eat frogs
- D. None of the above



## 2. Dragonflies

Dragonflies can hover, fly forward and backwards! What do they have in common with frogs? They are:

- A. Bioindicators (their presence tells you if the environment is healthy)
- B. Insectivores (and eat more than 1000 insects a day)
- C. Water dwellers in their early lives
- D. All of the above



### 3. Tadpoles

Check all the water areas you pass for these small black toad tadpoles. You might even see some tiny toads that have recently metamorphosed. It takes about 2 months for toad tadpoles to become toadlets. What challenges do toad tadpoles face?

- A. Toads often breed in temporary water that can dry up before tadpoles mature
- B. Fish and other animals eat toad tadpoles
- C. Wetland habitats are being destroyed
- D. Climate change and pesticide use are killing and mutilating them
- E. All of the above



#### 4a. Green frogs

Green frogs and bullfrogs are similar in appearance. Green frogs have a ridge along both sides of their backs. Bullfrogs do not. Is this a green frog or a bullfrog?

- A. Green Frog
- B. Bullfrog

#### 4b. Green frog calls

They have very different calls, too! Which is closest to the sound a green frog makes? They sound like:

- A. a woodpecker
- B. a plucked banjo string
- C. Crickets



## 5. Skunk Cabbage

Skunk Cabbage is a native species that grows in swampy areas. It has the remarkable ability to produce heat that melts the snow so the flower buds can emerge when there's still snow on the ground! This means it's one of the first flowers to emerge in spring. What is the relationship of this plant to frogs? It:

- A. Smells like rotting meat so attracts flies that frogs eat
- B. Provides shelter to frogs
- C. Is a nest for frogs to lay their eggs
- D. All of the above



## 6. Invasive plants

Garlic mustard (left) forms dense stands that choke out native plants by controlling light, water, and nutrient resources. Tree of heaven (middle) is a preferred host for the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect.

Japanese knotweed (right) has shallow roots that can cause erosion.

Which of these plants are harmful to frogs?

- A. Garlic mustard
- B. Tree of heaven
- C. Japanese knotweed
- D. All of the above



## 7. Common Reed

Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) is an *invasive species* of plant. That means it comes from another part of the world. They compete with *native species* and can alter the natural environment. What problems can they cause for frogs? They:

- A. Are so vigorous that they can fill in wetlands and destroy frog habitat
- B. Do not taste good to frogs
- C. Are uncomfortable for frogs to sit on
- D. None of the above



## 8. Flowering plants and trees

Flowering trees like the Eastern Redbud are important food for pollinators including bees, butterflies, beetles, moths, wasps, and flies. Flowering trees are also important to frogs because:

- A. Frogs are attracted to their pretty colors
- B. They attract pollinators, which keep the ecosystem healthy and balanced
- C. They attract pollinators, some of which become food for frogs
- D. B & C