

In most frog species, like most other animals, the female is larger than the male.

There are over 4,500 frog species in the world!

Tadpoles are herbivores but as adults, frogs are mainly carnivores.

Frogs do not 'lose' their tails - they are absorbed back into their body as they mature.

Frogs can not live in the sea or any salty body of water.

People who study amphibians and reptiles are called Herpetologists.

New Zealand's Hochstetter's Frog is the only endemic species to have webbed feet. Archey's Frog, Maud Island Frog and Hamilton's Frog live away from water and are poor swimmers.

Some frogs can live for more than 20 years.

www.southernencounter.co.nz

Email: educ@southernencounter.co.nz

Fax: (03) 377 9196

Telephone: (03) 377 3474

New Zealand

Christchurch

Papanui

P.O. Box 5130

S.E.A. School - An ocean of learning!

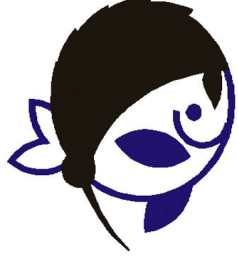
Did 10

you

know?



Frogs



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Frogs belong to a group of animals called *amphibians*.

The name *amphibian* refers to the two stages of these animals life and habitat, in and out of water— *Amphi* = double *bios* = life .

Frogs have a strong sense of location. Using their sense of smell and instinct, frogs are able to return to their breeding site each year.

New Zealand's Hamilton's Frog is the smallest endemic frog in NZ at about 47mm in length. The female (introduced) Green & Golden Bell frog grows to between 60mm and 104mm in length.

Not all frogs croak! None of our endemic frogs vocalise, except when disturbed.

Our endemic frogs do not have external eardrums and have round instead of slit-like eyes.

New Zealand's native frogs belong to the genus *Leiopelma*, an ancient and primitive group of frogs, and have changed very little in 70 million years. They still closely resemble the earliest frogs of 200 million years ago!

Different frogs use different methods to protect themselves from danger. They can either: play dead, use poison glands, use camouflage, puff up to look larger or hide in crevices, leaf litter or at the bottom of a pond.

Frogs are *ectothermic* or cold blooded. Their body temperature is the same as the air around them.

When the temperature is very low, frogs will hibernate in a log, under vegetation or underground depending on the species.

Some frogs are coloured or patterned so they can blend in with their environment. Some frogs can change their colouring to match their environment.

Some frogs such as the Whistling Tree Frog have little suction cups on their fingers (digits) to help them climb.

A frog drinks water through its moist semi-permeable skin.

New Zealand originally had seven species of native frog. Three species have become extinct since the arrival of humans and animal pests

Three out of four of our endemic frogs lay a small number of eggs on damp ground and the male sits and watches over them as the tadpole develops into froglets and hatch.

NZ has four endemic and three introduced frogs.

The world's largest amphibian is the Japanese giant salamander which measures 1.8m long and weighs approximately 63kg.

One of the smallest amphibians is the Poison Dart Frog. It measures 13mm long and weighs just 28grams.

A group of frogs is called an "army".

The largest frog in the world is the Goliath frog from West Africa! It can grow 300mm long and weigh more than 3Kg.

Hamilton's frog is our most critically endangered frog species, with less than 300 individuals remaining.

The young of most endemic frog species are cared for by their parents - for example, the male Archey's frog may carry his young offspring around on his back.