

Could You Croak that Again, Please?

Northern Green Frog



Tympanum (external ear drum)

Another cool fact about frogs and toads is that they have ears. They don't have lobes like us but instead have external ear drums, called tympanum. The tympanum is a ring of thin skin that can pick up vibrations. It is important for them to hear, because they call to each other. They don't even need phones.

Amphibian Sing-Off



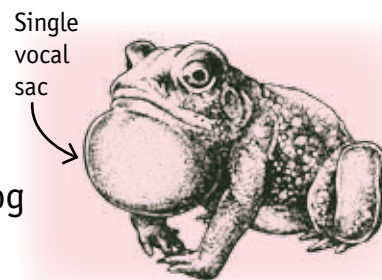
Northern Cricket Frog

Frogs and toads produce sounds in a voice box, and those sounds are boosted in a vocal sac. The vocal sac is a fold of skin filled with air. Some frogs and toads have just one vocal sac. Others have two vocal sacs.

Frogs and toads call for several reasons. They may call individually or in groups called a chorus. In most cases, the males are the only ones that call. They call to find a mate. Males make territorial calls to scare away other males. There is even a distress call frogs use when in danger.



Frogs and toads can be identified by their calls. The information below will help you identify some of the common frog and toad calls in Pennsylvania.



- Bullfrog** → "jug-o-rum, jug-o-rum"
- Wood Frog** → a duck quacking
- Spring Peeper** → a very high-pitched "peep, peep"
- Northern Green Frog** → a banjo string being plucked
- Eastern American Toad** → a long trill mistaken for crickets— toads in spring, crickets in fall