

# FROZEN ALIVE!

Did you ever say that you were freezing on a cold winter day? You are not freezing, just cold. The **freezing point** of water is 32-degrees F (or 0-degrees C). Your shivering generates heat and that helps to keep your temperature stable. While you do not freeze, some animals do. Several species of frogs hibernate just under leaf litter or rotting logs, above the **frost line**. These frogs are able to survive episodes of freezing. Their bodies actually freeze. They are **freeze tolerant**. The

## Checklist: Frogs that Freeze



*Wood Frog*



*Northern Spring Peeper*



*Gray Tree Frog*



*Western Chorus Frog*

amphibian best known for freezing is the Wood Frog. Once frozen, the frog doesn't breathe,

and its heart doesn't beat. When spring arrives, it defrosts and heads off to find a mate.

## FROZEN REPTILES

While all other Pennsylvania turtles hibernate underwater, the Eastern Box Turtle digs a shallow burrow in the ground. It is the largest known **freeze tolerant** reptile. Painted turtles are **freeze tolerant** but only as hatchlings. After hatching, painted turtle babies remain in their underground nest during the winter. Most Pennsylvania turtles emerge from their nests in time to head to the water to hibernate.



*Eastern Box Turtle*

*Midland Painted Turtle*