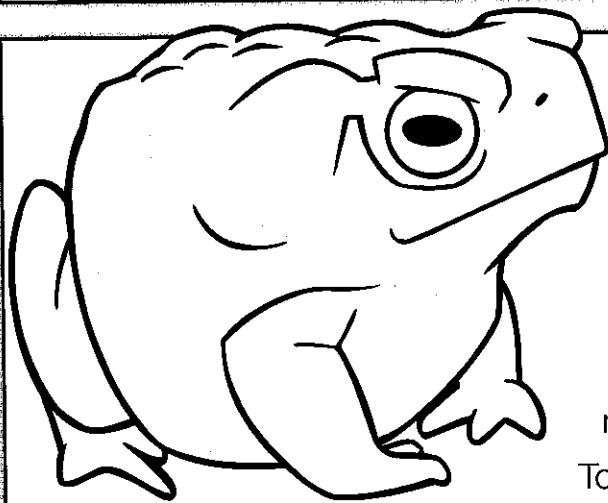
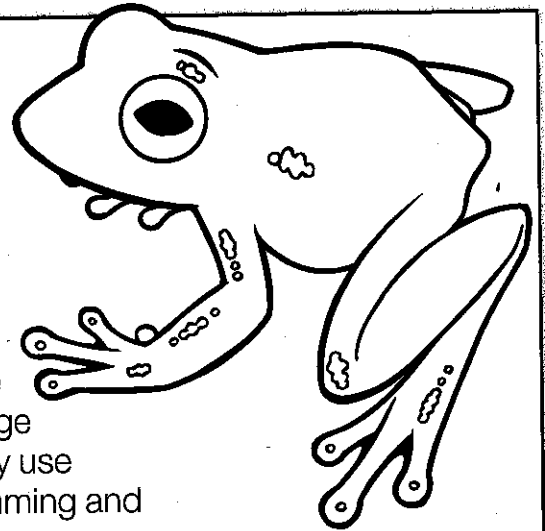


Finding similarities and differences = 2

Read the reports.

Frogs

1. Frogs are amphibians, which means they have two life stages: one they spend in water as tadpoles and the other is a semi-aquatic, adult stage. They belong to the *Ranidae* family of which there are more than 400 species. Frogs are found on every continent except Antarctica.
2. A moist environment is preferred by frogs. They have quite smooth and slimy skin. Their eyes tend to bulge and they have tiny teeth. They have four legs and they use their long, strong hind legs and webbed feet for swimming and for jumping away fast from their predators.
3. Frogs are able to vocalise, even underwater. The male attracts the female's attention in this way. They tend to lay eggs in ponds and ditches because there are no fish there to eat them. Their eggs are laid in bunches, a bit like grapes, and they hatch in about ten days. The tadpoles eat aquatic plants and algae, gradually changing into froglets. They then eat insects and grow quickly.
4. A group of frogs is called an army of frogs.



Toads

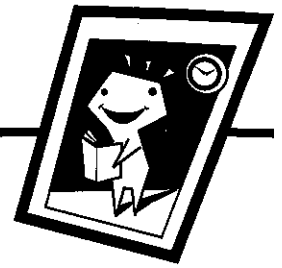
Toads are amphibians and belong to the *Bufo* family. There are more than 300 different species found naturally throughout the world, except in polar regions, Madagascar, Australasia and Polynesia. However, the cane toad, *Bufo marinus*, was introduced into some South Pacific islands and Australasia, where it is now causing huge problems.

Toads have dry, warty skin and most of them live on land. They have short, stubby bodies with short hind legs and even shorter front legs. They hop rather than jump and they are often not fast enough to escape their enemies, so they defend themselves by producing toxic, unpleasant-tasting skin secretions. This means they are not good to eat. Their eggs and tadpoles are also toxic.

To breed, toads need to return to water and when the males find a suitable place they call to the females. Their eggs look like long strings of black beads held together with a jelly-like substance. The tadpoles, which are smaller and darker than frog tadpoles, hatch within a few days, gradually changing into toadlets. They feed on insects and grow quickly.

A group of toads is called a knot of toads.

Finding similarities and differences



Try it out

Use the strategies you learnt and practised in *Favourite recipes* to work out similarities and differences.

- Make sure you understand the question and underline the keywords.
- Use a chart or a Venn diagram if you need it.
- Always check all possible answers before making a decision.

1. *Frogs and toads are the same because they:*

- (a) have smooth skin.
- (b) can jump well.
- (c) can lay eggs.
- (d) belong to the *Bufo* family.

The best answer is .

Think!

Try to find each answer in both parts of the text.

2. *What is the same about frog and toad legs?*

- (a) They are long.
- (b) They are strong.
- (c) There are four of them.
- (d) They are suitable for jumping.

The best answer is .

3. *What are two differences between frog and toad legs?*

4. *Describe how the eggs of frogs and toads are different.*

5. *What is different about the way frogs and toads avoid their predators?*
