

# Frog Talk

## Directions:

1. Hand out copies of 'Frog Talk' cards to participants. Be sure to print out at least 2 copies of each call.
2. Have participants read card to learn about their frog species, then have them walk around room making their call to find a partner making the same call. Calls that are capitalized are meant to be louder than those that are lowercase. Calls that are italicized should be drawn out a little.
3. Once participants find the 'frog' or 'toad' making their same noise, then have them do introductions.
4. When everyone has found their partner, go around room and have participants make their call and then read the information about their frog or toad to the group.

## Extensions:

1. Play sounds of the different calls to see if participants can match up the calls on their cards to the actual frog and toad calls.
2. Go on a frog call survey and see if you can document what you hear. Go out on a few different nights throughout the year to see if what you are hearing changes.



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## Bullfrog

*Jug-O-Ruummm*  
(very low)

I am the largest native frog in the United States, where I naturally occur in the East and have been introduced in the West. I establish my territory by calling and sometimes engage in wrestling matches with other males. I have a ridge that goes around my tympanum (ear drum) but not down my back.

## Spring Peeper

PEEP-PEEP-PEEP-PEEP

I am a common chorus frog in much of the eastern United States. We gather at wetlands in spring and make a deafening chorus. Sometimes, I make a *puuurreek* call to warn other males. I can be identified by the X-marking on my back, but most people never see me.

## Green Frog

**DUNK! DUNK! DUNK!**

I am common in the eastern United States along streams, swamps, ponds, and marshes. My call sounds a bit like someone just plucked a banjo string. I sometimes am confused with the bullfrog, but I have a ridge that goes down my back. If my eardrum is larger than my eye, then I am a male.

## Wood Frog

*Quack, Quack, Quack*

I am a special frog found in northern areas of the United States and Canada. Because of this, I have a cryoprotectant in my blood that allows me to freeze without dying! Cool, huh? I'm one of the first spring breeders and participate in scramble breeding.

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## Eastern Cricket Frog

### Click your Tongue

I am a tiny frog with a dark triangle mark between my eyes and my skin is very warty. My call is sometimes mistaken for an insect call and it can sound like the marshes, ponds, and other wetlands where I live are clicking or rattling when many of us sing together in a chorus together.

## Green Treefrog

### *Queenk! Queenk! Queenk!*

I am usually bright green in color and have white or cream stripes on my face. I have smooth skin. I live in swamps and marshes and love to sing when it is wet outside. Sometimes my call can get confused with spring peepers, but my call sounds more nasally. I can also call up to 75 times in a row!

## Pickerel Frog

### *Snooorreee sounds*

I live throughout the eastern United States and in parts of the south. I am light brown in color and have squarish spots in rows down my back. To confuse predators, I also have bright yellow patches on my inner thighs known as flash coloration. I also taste bad to potential predators.

## Eastern Spadefoot Toad

### **WAHHH! WAHHH! WAHH!**

I have a special sickle-shaped projection on my back feet for digging. I spend most of my time underground but come to the surface after heavy rains to sing and breed in a large group. We can sound like a bunch of calves crying out. We are typically only heard for one or two nights before we go back underground.

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## Eastern Narrowmouth Toad

***BAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHH!***

Some say I sound like a sheep with a raspy voice. I'm a tiny frog that is very secretive. My snout comes to a narrow point. I have an extra fold of skin by my face to protect it against ants which I love to eat. Sometimes, I like to sit on top of anthills to catch easy food.

## Carpenter Frog

***Ric-up Ric-up Ric-up***

Some say my call sounds like a carpenter hammering which is how I got my common name. I live on the coastal plain and have short hind legs that sometimes make me look like a toad. I can sometimes be confused with other frog species, but the webbing on my feet doesn't reach the tip of my longest toe.

## Barking Treefrog

***ARK! ARK! ARK!***

I am the largest native treefrog in the United States. I have thick and leathery skin which can help me camouflage with my surroundings. I can call in the water or up in trees. Outside of breeding, I spend much of my time up in the treetops.

## Southern Leopard Frog

***Aa-ha-ha-ha rrrrup***

I am sometimes confused with a Pickerel Frog. I am usually brownish to green in appearance scattered spots. If you look closely, you will see a white spot at the center of my tympanum (external ear drum). My call is occasionally described as someone rubbing their hand over a balloon.

# Maryland Frog & Toad Calling Calendar

Adapted from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. This list does not include all Maryland species. It should be noted that some species like Spring Peepers will also call on warm, rainy nights outside of their usual breeding season.



## Barking Treefrog



By: E CC by NC 2.0

## Bullfrog



By: Brian Gratwicke CC by 2.0

## Carpenter Frog



Public Domain

## Eastern Cricket Frog



By: Brian Gratwicke CC by 2.0

## Eastern Narrowmouth Toad



davehuth.com



By: Dave Huth CC by NC 2.0

## Eastern Spadefoot Toad



TODD PIERSON 2009



By: Todd Pierson CC by NC 3.0

## Green Frog



By: Brian Gratwicke CC by 2.0

## Green Treefrog



By: Brian Gratwicke CC by 2.0

## Southern Leopard Frog



By: Peter Paplanus CC by 2.0

## Pickerel Frog



By: Brian Gratwicke CC by 2.0

## Spring Peeper



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## Wood Frog



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