

# Toads



# Toad or Frog?



**The skin of a toad is dry and has lots of tiny bumps.**

**They like to live in drier areas than frogs.**

**Toads have bumps just behind their eyes.**



**The skin of a frog is smoother and can feel slightly slimy.**

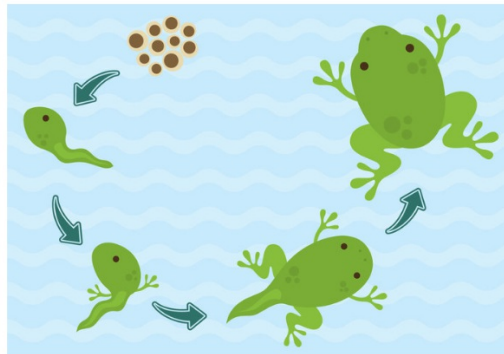
**Frogs spend most of their time on land, but need to live in damp areas.**

**Frogs have a darker patch behind their eye.**



**Both frogs and toads return to ponds to lay their eggs in the Spring. These eggs are called spawn. Frogs lay their eggs in big clumps and toads lay their eggs in long strings. You can see both in this picture.**





**Toads and frogs have a very similar life cycle. They lay their eggs in ponds in the spring.**

**The eggs hatch into tadpoles, without legs and with a long tail to help them swim in the water.**

**The tadpoles grow legs as they get bigger and their tail eventually disappears. At the end of summer the tadpoles leave the pond and start to live on land.**

**When they are about three years old, they return to ponds to lay their own eggs.**

## **Migrating Toads**



**Toads will always return to their pond all at the same time.**

**They normally travel to their pond after dark.**

**It can take several weeks for them all to get to the pond.**

**Toads are very fussy and always try to return to the pond that they were born in.**

## **The Gardeners Friend**



**Frogs and toads are very good for helping to keep down the number of animals that like to eat plants, such as slugs and woodlice.**

**They have very long tongues that have a sticky end to help them catch small minibeasts.**



## **Staying Safe**



**The bumps behind a toads eyes are poison glands. They use these to stop bigger animals eating them.**

**Toads are safe as long as you:**

- **don't squeeze or hurt them,**
- **don't try to eat them,**
- **don't lick them.**



# **TOADSonROADS**



**Sadly toads are not doing very well at the moment.**

- **They can easily get killed crossing roads.**
- **Pesticides and chemicals can sometimes kill them or their food.**
- **Their breeding ponds can get filled in or polluted.**
- **Tidy gardens do not always have enough hiding places for them or their food.**

**But we can help them!**



# Toad Abodes

One way we can help toads is by making safe places for them to live.



Next week we will be making one of these to take home.

**Let's make toads happy again.**

