In this unit, you’ll read about how some kinds of frogs use the different places they live to stay safe from animals that might eat them. Before you read, answer the questions below.

What Do You Know?
What do you already know about frogs and where they live?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

What Do You Think?
What are some things frogs might do to hide or get away from animals that want to eat them?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Each time you read the text, return to what you wrote here to see if new information changes or adds to your answers.
Have you ever tried to catch a frog? Unless you moved very fast, the frog got away before you could grab it! Frogs are great at jumping and finding hiding places. There are many kinds of frogs living in different habitats. The smallest frog is found in Papua New Guinea. It could sit on your fingertip. The Goliath frog that lives in African rainforests can be about a foot long and weigh more than seven pounds.

Some frogs live mostly in water. Others spend most of their time in trees. But every frog knows how to use its habitat to get food and

**habitat:** places in nature where animals or plants live and grow

**Papua New Guinea:** a country in the Pacific Ocean near Australia

**African:** from the continent of Africa
have babies. There are many animals that like to eat frogs. That means frogs also need to use their habitats to stay safe and **survive**.

## Getting the Jump on Frogs

There are about 100 species, or kinds, of frogs in **North America**. But all frogs have some things in common. They are **amphibians**. Frogs also have strong back legs good for jumping. Some can jump 20 times their body length! Frogs have big eyes that see well at night. Those eyes also help them spot bugs to eat.

Almost all frogs lay their eggs in water. The eggs hatch into **tadpoles**. Over time, the tadpoles grow legs and start breathing air. The young frogs are then able to go out on land. Even frogs that spend most of their lives on land almost always go back to water when it’s time to lay eggs.

Wherever frogs live, they spend a lot of time **protecting** themselves from animals that want to eat them!
Habitats, Hiding, and Escape

Spring peepers are good at hiding. The spring peeper is about an inch long and one of the smallest frogs in North America. Hearing its “peep” call is easy, but seeing a spring peeper is hard. That’s because spring peepers often live on the ground in forests, where they can get under fallen leaves. Or they may live on the edge of a pond where there is grass to cover them. Hiding is important to spring peepers because their small size makes it easy for other animals to eat them.

Mink frogs have a special way to help them stay safe. They stink! When a mink frog is touched, its skin gives off a smell like a rotten onion. This can make other animals stay away.
But mink frogs mostly use their habitat to stay safe. They like to live on ponds with a lot of lily pads. When in danger, mink frogs hop away on the floating leaves or hide under them.

How would you like to turn a different color in order to hide? That’s what some northern Pacific tree frogs do. Most of the time, these frogs are green or brown. But they can change color to match the leaves, grass, and land around them. In places or seasons where there are lots of green plants and leaves, the frogs can turn greener. In places or seasons where there are browner plants and more dirt, they can turn browner. These color changes help the frogs hide by making them harder to see. They don’t have to hide under leaves, because they can look almost like leaves!

The bullfrog is the biggest frog in North America. It can be up to eight inches long and weigh more than a pound. The bullfrog gets its
name from its loud call, which some people think sounds like the moo of a cow or bull. Bullfrogs love water and don’t spend much time on land. When a hungry animal comes after them, bullfrogs often dive into deep water. And bullfrogs don’t mind traveling to escape danger. Young bullfrogs can travel up to six miles in just a few weeks to find a new place to live!

**People Can Help Frogs, Too**

One of the biggest dangers to frogs today is people. People are putting buildings on or near many frog habitats. **Pollution** in ponds, lakes, and streams can make frogs very sick. Groups like SAVE THE FROGS! are working to protect frogs and make sure they have places to live. Frogs help us by eating some bugs that can hurt plants or make people sick, so it makes sense for us to work to keep them healthy and happy.

**pollution:** waste caused by people that makes the water, air, or land dirty
1. Which of these is the most likely reason a bullfrog would jump a long way?
   A  because it is summer
   B  to get away from bugs
   C  to get away from danger
   D  because it is racing another frog

2. Which of these would someone protecting a child do?
   A  keep the child safe
   B  leave the child alone
   C  make fun of the child
   D  tell stories about the child

3. What is the main idea of the text?
   A  Most frogs smell bad.
   B  Most frogs live near trees.
   C  Frogs often lay their eggs in water.
   D  Frogs have different ways of staying safe.

4. Which detail from the text supports your answer to question 3?
   A  “Some frogs live mostly in water.” (p. 46)
   B  “Wherever frogs live, they spend a lot of time protecting themselves from animals that want to eat them!” (p. 47)
   C  “That’s because spring peepers often live on the ground in forests, where they can get under fallen leaves.” (p. 48)
   D  “When a mink frog is touched, its skin gives off a smell like a rotten onion.” (p. 48)
Reread or listen to “Splash! Rustle! How Habitats Help Frogs Survive” on pages 46–50. Mark an A where you think a frog does something amazing to stay safe.

After you finish the text, look at the places you marked with an A. Choose one place to share with your partner.

After talking to your partner, write an answer to this focus question:

What do you think is the most amazing way that a frog uses its habitat to stay safe?

Give a piece of evidence that supports your answer:

Another piece of evidence that supports your answer:

Your evidence can be:
• A detail from the text, like a fact or a quote
• A detail from a photo caption, chart, or map

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS
After you reread, make notes, and complete this page, check the box above. When it’s time for the discussion, go to the next page.
1. Use the answer and evidence you wrote on the previous page to join in the Shared Inquiry discussion.

2. After discussion, think about how you changed or added to your answer, and write your new answer below:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS
After you finish this page, check the box above and go to the next page.
1. Use this page to help you write a response.

2. Question you will answer: ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

   Your Main Idea
   (answer to the question)
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________
   ________________________________

   Supporting Detail
   ________________________________
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   Supporting Detail
   ________________________________
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   Supporting Detail
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   ________________________________
   ________________________________
Look back at the places you marked with ?s and at the class list of questions. Think about questions that came up in your discussion, too. Which do you still want to know more about?

Write your questions below. Think about where you might look to find answers to them. (For example, you might look for an answer online, read a book about the subject, or ask someone who knows a lot about the subject.)

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<th>Questions you still want answered:</th>
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  Daniel Pinkwater
- The Velveteen Rabbit  
  Margery Williams

*Correlates with JGB Nonfiction Inquiry 2 unit. See page 2 for details.

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