

Interesting Amphibian Facts and Superlatives

Interesting Amphibian Facts

- Amphibians have been around for nearly 400 million years.
- Nearly all amphibians are capable of producing poisons from their skin. Some of these poisons are easily smelled.
- A group of frogs is called an ARMY of frogs.
- A group of toads is referred to as a KNOT of toads.
- Some frogs (such as wood frogs and spring peepers) are able to freeze solid during the winter and survive!
- Some frogs and salamanders have tongues 10x the length of their body. Others do not have tongues.
- Salamanders can re-grow their toes and tails.
- Many frogs and salamanders take care of their young, either by guarding their eggs, transporting their young or feeding their tadpoles.
- In one species of South American frog the tadpole is 4x larger than the adult of the same species.
- Bullfrogs stay tadpoles for about 2 years before they become frogs. Some frogs remain tadpoles for only 8 days.
- Some salamanders do not emerge out of their larval stage – examples are Axolotl (*Ambystoma mexicanum*), Mudpuppies (*Necturus sp.*), and several species of Blind Cave Salamanders

Amphibian Superlatives

- Biggest frog: Goliath frog (*Conraua goliath*) – 12” long and weighs as much as a large housecat.
- Smallest frog in Northern Hemisphere: *Eleutherodactylus iberia* (it was recently discovered so it does not yet have a common name) adults usually measure about 1 cm!
- Biggest Salamander: Giant Chinese/Japanese Salamander (*Andrias sp*) – 3.5 – 4’ long and can weigh up to 60 lbs.
- Most Poisonous Frog: Golden Dart Frog (*Phylllobates terribilis*) - This frog has enough toxic secretions on its skin to kill up to 10 people.
- Best Jumper: South American sharp-nosed tree frog. It has been recorded to jump 33’5”.

