

# Frogs of the Hunter Region

## Activity ideas for the classroom



Australia has 240 known species of native amphibians, all frogs.

Forty-eight species, or 20%, call the Hunter Region home!

### Prompting questions

- Have you seen many frogs? Have you heard many frogs?
- Why do you think it might be tricky/difficult to spot a frog (they're small, they're nocturnal, they camouflage etc)
- Do frogs have somewhere to live in your garden?

### Identifying frogs

Identify frog names based on:

- appearance (froglets, giant barred frog)
- habitat (burrowing frogs)
- sound they make (banjo frogs, whistling frogs).  
Use the FrogID app to listen to frog calls.



This activity could be completed as a mix and match activity or using stations set up around the classroom.

### Match that call

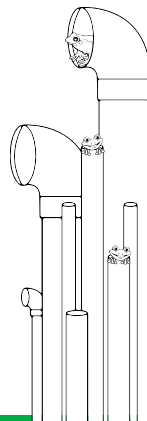
Play frog sounds to the classroom and ask students to describe what they hear – see if this can be matched to common names.

### Where they live

Using the FrogID app or Identification Guide, students find out where each of the frogs on the poster live. Are they found in your area?

### Attracting frogs to your garden

Create a frog bog/pond in your school or nearby community garden. Alternatively, make some frog hotels out of PCV pipe (see diagram) and place them in your school gardens.



### Native or invasive? Know the differences

Identify differences between the invasive cane toad and similar-looking native species – size/toes or pads/pupil shape. Use the table on the following page as a guide.

### Support materials

This resource is to be used with these two key supporting documents:

- [Frogs of the Hunter Region Identification Guide](#)
- Frogs of the Hunter Region Poster

Hard copies of these resources can be obtained by contacting Hunter Local Land Services on 1300 795 299.



### FrogID app






To complete some of these activities, the FrogID app will need to be downloaded from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).

© State of New South Wales published by Local Land Services 2023



Do you think you've found a cane toad? Don't kill it – report it!

Call 1800 680 244 or visit <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity/forms/report-an-unusual-animal-sighting>

	<b>Cane toad</b> <i>Rhinella marina</i> <b>INVASIVE SPECIES</b>	<b>Common eastern froglet</b> <i>Crinia signifera</i>	<b>Peron's tree frog</b> <i>Litoria peronii</i>	<b>Wrinkled glandular frog/wrinkled toadlet</b> <i>Uperoleia rugosa</i>
	Short fingers and toes. No toe pads, no webbings between fingers. Can't climb walls.	No toe pads, no webbing between fingers and toes.	Fingers are half webbed and toes are fully webbed, both with large pads.	No toe pads, fingers and toes are unwebbed.
	Large paratoid glands on shoulders/neck behind ear drum. The glands secrete toxins when the toad is under threat.	No glands.	No glands.	The paratoid glands on the shoulders often look like two brown or sand-coloured patches.
	"Goat-like" or horizontal, pupil. Hard ridges from eyes, joining at the snout.	Pupil is nearly round, with a gold iris.	Pupil appears crossed-shaped, and the iris is silver.	Pupil is diamond-shaped, with a gold iris.
	Dry and bumpy appearance. Young toads can look similar to <i>Uperoleia</i> and <i>Crinia</i> species but lack colourful markings on the thighs.	Very variable in appearance – brown, grey, cream, beige, reddish or mustard yellow back, with or without longitudinal stripes, spots or patches. There are small dark triangular patches along the upper lip.	Thin black line behind the eye to top of arm. Male has a yellow throat. Tiny emerald-green spotting on back. Thighs are bright yellow with black patches.	Under surfaces of arms and thighs are pale pink. Fronts and backs of the thighs are bright red.
	Typically 10–15 cm as adults, females up to 20 cm (juveniles are tiny).	Typically 2 cm as adults, sometimes 3 cm. Tiny!	Typically 5–7 cm.	Up to 3 cm in length.

## Frogs in the classroom

Frogs can only be kept in NSW school rooms [under licence](#) and must be bought from a licenced breeder. Instead, consider installing habitat gardens or a frog pond to support further learning at home or at school.

The collection and movement of tadpoles and frogs contributes to the transmission of diseases like Amphibian Chytrid Fungus.

Amphibian Chytrid Fungus is one of the key contributors to population decline in frogs worldwide. The fungus is easily spread and is listed as a key threatening process under the *NSW Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995*.

## Further information

Frog ID [Classroom resources](#)

Australian Museum

- [Australia's native frogs](#)
- [How to make a frog pond](#)

Melbourne Water's [Meet the Frogs](#) (years 3-4).

Biosecurity Warriors [Investigate cane toads](#) (years 5-6).

[Saving the southern bell frog](#) and [Hop into Frogs](#) – Although these resources don't focus on species from the Hunter Valley, a lot of the lesson plan themes and ideas are transferable to other species, including the local, and endangered, green and golden bell frog (years 3-6).

[How to create a frog bog](#) with Gardening Australia.

