

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Frogs Big and Small

Frogs are amazing creatures that come in all shapes and sizes! These animals can be as tiny as your fingernail or as big as a small housecat. Have you ever wondered how big frogs can really get? Or how small the tiniest frog might be? Let's dive into the fascinating world of frog sizes to find out!

Frogs can vary greatly in size depending on their species. Some frogs are so small that they can easily hide under a leaf, while others are big enough to fill up an entire dinner plate! Most frogs that you might see hopping around your neighborhood or in a pond are somewhere between 2 to 5 inches long and weigh just a few ounces. But there are frogs out there that break all the records.

The biggest frog in the world is the Goliath frog, found in the rainforests of West Africa, mainly in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea. This giant frog can grow up to a whopping 12.5 inches long! That's more than a foot! And it doesn't stop there. These massive frogs can weigh up to 7 pounds-about the same weight as a newborn baby! The Goliath frog is so big and strong that it can even move rocks that weigh almost as much as it does to make a safe spot to lay its eggs. However, because of their large size, Goliath frogs need a lot of food and a safe, quiet environment to survive. Sadly, they are endangered because people hunt them and their habitats are disappearing.

On the other end of the size scale, we have the tiniest frog in the world-the Paedophryne amauensis. This tiny frog lives in the tropical rainforests of Papua New Guinea and is only about 0.3 inches long. That's smaller than a dime! In fact, Paedophryne frogs are not only the smallest frogs in the world but are also one of the smallest vertebrates on Earth, which means they're among the tiniest animals with a backbone. Because they're so small, Paedophryne frogs are hard to find and study. They live under leaves on the forest floor, where they're safe from bigger animals that might want to eat them.

Frogs come in all these different sizes because each species has adapted to live in its own unique habitat. Bigger frogs, like the Goliath frog, live near rivers where they have room to grow and plenty of food to eat, such as insects, small fish, and even other frogs! Smaller frogs, like the Paedophryne, live in damp leaf litter on the forest floor, where their tiny size helps them hide from predators and survive in a world filled with bigger creatures.

Did you know that frogs don't drink water with their mouths? Instead, they absorb it through their skin! This is one reason frogs always live near water or damp areas. It also explains why frogs are so sensitive to pollution, as harmful chemicals in the water can pass right through their skin and make them sick.

So next time you see a frog, think about its size. Is it a tiny frog hiding in the mud, or a larger one that spends its time leaping around? Frogs of all sizes play an important role in their habitats, keeping insect populations in check and adding to the diversity of life in our world.

