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## The Wild World of Frogs

Frogs are some of the most fascinating creatures on Earth! While many people know they are good at jumping and have big, bulging eyes, there's a lot more to frogs than meets the eye. Did you know that frogs are found on every continent except Antarctica? From the tropical rainforests of South America to the deserts of Australia, frogs have adapted to live in many different environments. With over 7,000 species of frogs worldwide, these little amphibians play an important role in ecosystems and are more widespread than many people realize.



One of the coolest things about frogs is their unique skin. Unlike humans, who breathe only through their lungs, frogs can absorb oxygen right through their skin! This is called cutaneous respiration, and it helps them survive in water and on land. However, to do this, they need to keep their skin moist, so most frogs live near water. In fact, if a frog's skin dries out, it can be very harmful, even deadly, for them.

Another fun fact? Frogs are tiny but mighty! Although they are small, scientists have discovered that the total weight, or "biomass," of all frogs on Earth is enormous. Biomass is the combined weight of all living organisms in a certain group. Even though individual frogs don't weigh much, when you add up all the frogs in the world, their biomass is greater than many larger animals! This shows just how many frogs there are on Earth and why they are so important to the environment. Frogs eat insects like mosquitoes and flies, which helps keep the insect population under control. They are also food for larger animals like birds, snakes, and fish, making them a key part of the food chain.

Frogs have been around for millions of years and are tough survivors. They lived through the time of the dinosaurs, and some species are capable of surviving in extremely cold temperatures. The wood frog, for example, lives in North America and can freeze almost completely solid during winter! When spring arrives, it thaws out and continues with its life as if nothing happened. Imagine a frog frozen solid, then hopping around once it warms up!

But not all frogs are doing well. Some species are endangered, meaning their numbers are very low and they could disappear forever. Pollution, climate change, and habitat destruction are big threats to frogs around the world. Scientists study frogs to learn how to protect them, as losing frogs would harm ecosystems and disrupt food chains.

Some frogs are famous for their colors. The poison dart frog, found in Central and South America, is one of the most brightly colored animals in the world. But these beautiful colors come with a warning: poison dart frogs are toxic! Their bright skin tells predators, "Stay away!"

From their unique skin to their incredible survival skills, frogs are amazing creatures that help keep our world balanced. Next time you see a frog, remember that it's one of nature's little heroes!

