



Student workbook

Name: _____

What are frogs?

List at least three words that describe frogs and their place in the environment.

What are the five most common words on your class WordCloud?

Complete the form based on the research you have completed.

What are frogs?

Where do they live?

What do they eat?

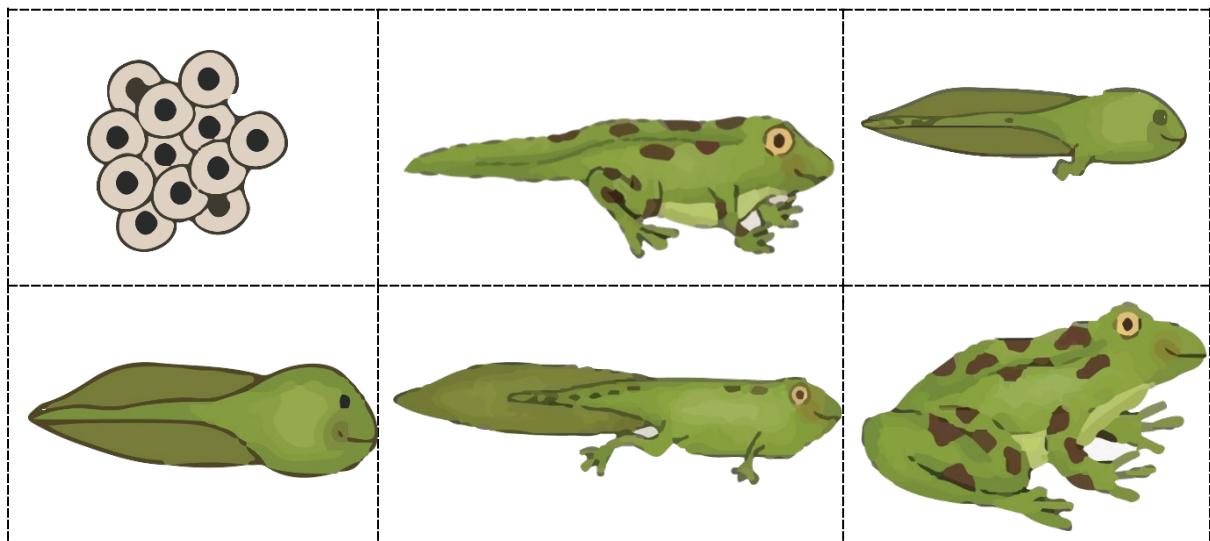
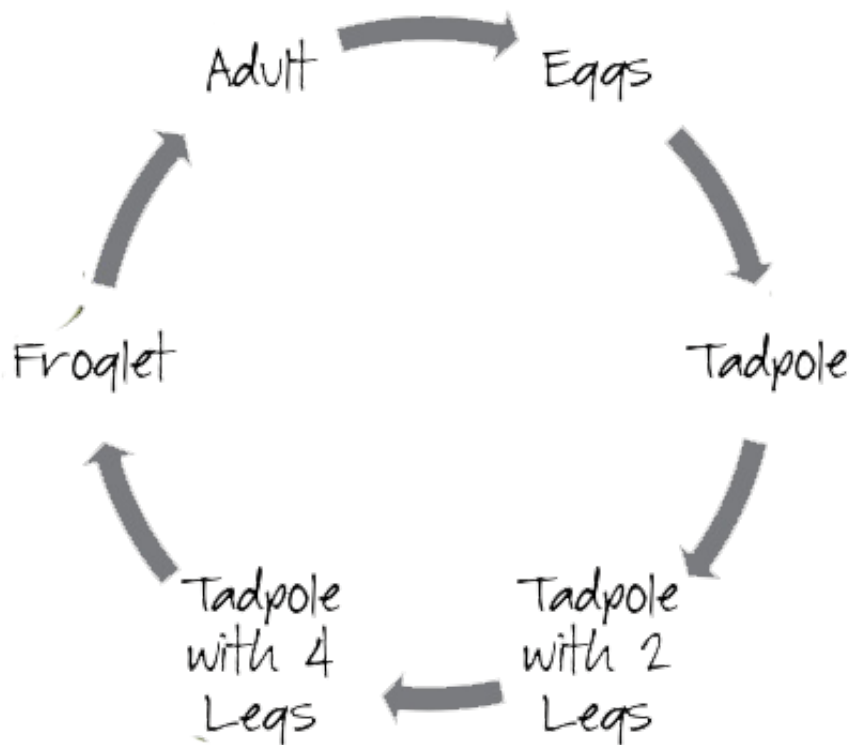
What do they need to survive?

How do they reproduce?

Lifecycle of a frog

Place the stages of a frog's lifecycle in the correct order on the diagram.

You could also add some information about each stage.



A frog for every environment

Research three different frogs found in Australia. Try to find some that live in very different landscapes including the rainforest, coastal environments or alpine areas. Record the following details:

Common name:

Scientific name:

Where are they found?

What sort of environment do they prefer?

How are they adapted for that environment?

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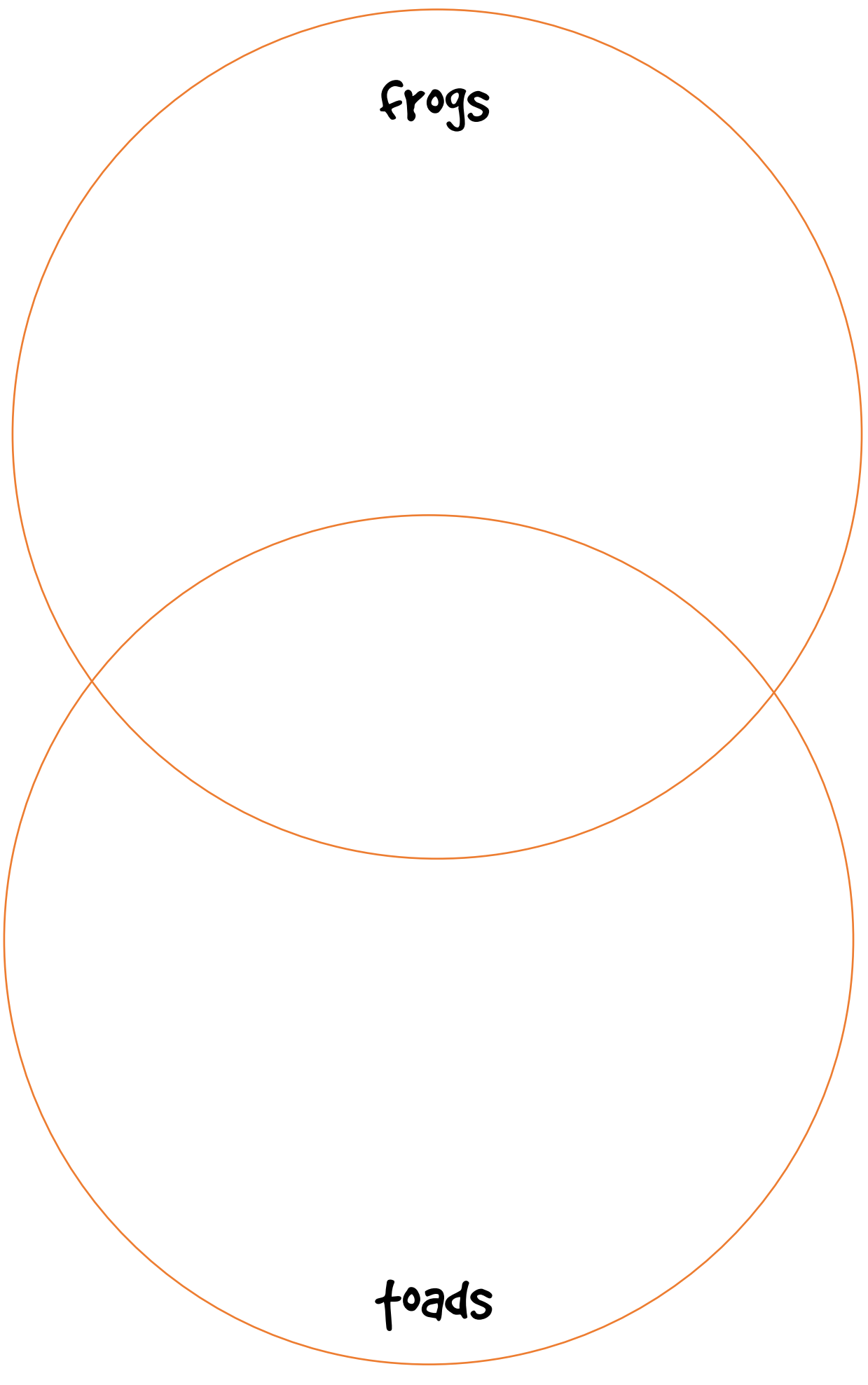
Where are they found?

What sort of environment do they prefer?

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What is the difference between a frog and a toad?

Can you think of some children's stories or books with frogs and toads in them? What was the character of the frog or toad like? Do you think it changed the way you think about frogs and toads?



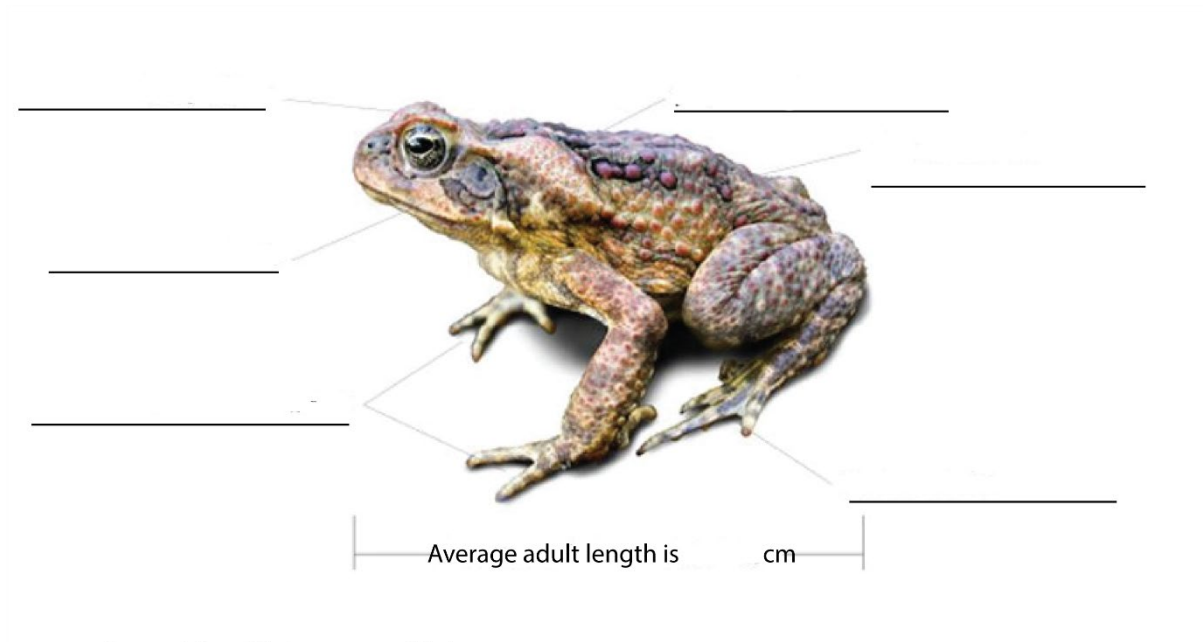
A Venn diagram consisting of two overlapping circles. The top circle is labeled 'frogs' and the bottom circle is labeled 'toads'. The circles overlap in the center, creating a lens-shaped intersection.

frogs

toads

What is a cane toad?

Label the parts of the cane toad below.



Source: Office of Environment and Heritage

Complete the following details:

Common name:

Scientific name:

Where are they found?

Where do cane toads come from?

What sort of environment do they prefer?

How are they adapted for that environment?

What features allow them to survive in their preferred environment?

Why are cane toads a problem?

Complete the following information about cane toads.

Cane toads eat _____ they can swallow, including pet food, carrion and household scraps, but most of their food is living _____. The tadpoles of cane toads eat _____ and other aquatic plants which they rasp off with five rows of tiny peg-like teeth. They also _____ organic matter from the water.

Adult cane toads are active at _____ during the _____ months of the year. They can survive the loss of up to 50% of their body water, and can survive _____ ranging from 5°C - 40°C.

Cane toads are prolific breeders, requiring only a small pool of still or slow-flowing water, and they can tolerate salinity levels up to 15%. The _____ congregate after dark around shallow _____ and mount females as they arrive at the water's edge. As the female releases her eggs, they are fertilised _____ by the male's sperm. Females lay 8,000 to _____ eggs at a time and may produce two clutches a year although only a small proportion of young survive to adulthood. The eggs hatch within 24-72 hours and the tadpole stage may last from 3-20 weeks. The tadpoles gradually change (metamorphose) into _____ 1-1.5 cm in length that leave the water and congregate in large numbers.

The cane toad is tough and adaptable as well as being poisonous throughout its life cycle. It has few _____ in Australia, which is bad news for competing native amphibians, and it may be responsible for the population _____ of the few snakes and other species that do prey on it.

Comprehension questions

Which features of the cane toad make it well suited to being an invasive species?

How does the behaviour of the cane toad make it a threat to Australian wildlife?

Which features of the cane toad might help to limit its spread throughout Australia? Think about the different environments and weather in different parts of Australia.

Does the description of the life cycle match the frog life cycle you completed earlier in the book?

☐ Yes

☐ No

How might the cane toad impact agriculture in Australia?

What are we doing about cane toads?

Map the area of NSW where cane toads are currently found.



Mark and label where you live.

Which zone are you located in? Are there currently cane toads in that area?

What can you do about cane toads?

What should you do if you have seen a cane toad in either the Buffer Zone (amber on the map) or the Cane Toad free zone (red on the map).

_____ it:

Making sure to:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

_____ it:

Making sure to:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

What is the website address for reporting cane toads?

Native frog or cane toad?

Can you tell the difference between a cane toad and these native frogs?

Is this a cane toad?

Does it have:

- ☐ dry warty skin?
- ☐ bony ridges over its eyes?
- ☐ parotoid glands (large swellings) on each shoulder behind the eardrum
- ☐ bright colours?

Is it a cane toad?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No



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Review questions:

Are all frogs invasive pests? Why, or why not?

What should you do if you think you have seen a cane toad?

What are the four features you can use to tell a cane toad from an Australian native frog?

Why are cane toads a problem in Australia?
