



Frog Watch

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Frog Watch

Six of the nine frog species found along the Murray River have been recorded at the Riverglades Wetland Complex, in South Australia. The species include the spotted grass frog, common froglet, eastern banjo frog, brown tree frog, southern bell frog and eastern sign bearing froglet.

Field Work

Equipment: tape recorder with microphone, torch, Frog Census data sheet from the Frog Census website (<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/epa/frogcensus/index.html>) 'What Frog is That?' fact sheet on the next page.

The best time to hear frogs calling is at night and at sunset.

When out in the field you may like to take a 3 to 5 minute tape recording of the frog calls so you can listen to them back in the classroom.

Identification

Using the 'What Frog is That?' fact sheet try and identify the species of frogs found at Riverglades.

Fill out the website data sheet.



Classroom

Look up the Frog Census website on (<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/epa/frogcensus/index.html>).

Go to the box 'Frogs of South Australia' and click on it. This web page has information on South Australian frogs, their distribution and examples of the calls. If your computer has a sound card you will be able to hear the frog calls.

From listening to the website call you will be able to identify the frog calls you recorded at the Riverglades.

Project

Research further one of the species found at the wetland.

Find information on the species habitat, life cycle and where it is found in Australia.

What Frog is that ⁽¹⁾?

Call	Frog	Where they call from	When	Colour	Size	Where they usually live
Whistling series of "weep.eep.eep"	Brown tree frog <i>Litoria ewingii</i>	On the ground while floating amongst plants	All year	pale brown on back, with band running down the back & darker flecks.	Up to 45mm	Most habitats near water
Slow "cackle"	Peron's tree frog <i>Litoria peronii</i>	Water's edge and nearby vegetation	Sept to Jan	from grey or brown, to cream, with darker patches & green flecks	Up to 50mm	Live in forests and feeds in open areas
A growling "waaah...waaah"	Southern bell frog <i>Litoria raniformis</i>	Floating in water amongst reeds	Aug to April	green, with yellow or dark spots & pale green stripe on back	Up to 85mm	Permanent lagoons and lakes with bulrushes
A banjo-like "plonk" or "bonk"	Pobblebonk <i>Limnodynastes dumerilii</i>	From the water	All year	Pale grey to dark green, brown or black. Blotches on back	Up to 70mm	Burrows in woodlands and grasslands
A dog-like "rok" or "whuck"	Barking marsh frog <i>Limnodynastes fletcheri</i>	From water in vegetation Usually after rain	Usually Oct to Mar	Light grey or brown, with dark blotches on back	Up to 50mm	Water covered grassy areas & near water's edge
A machine like "uk-uk-uk-uk"	Spotted grass frog <i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>	From the water, either concealed or out in open	All year usually after rain	Light brown to dark green, & dark blotches. Some = stripe on back	Up to 45mm	Most habitats near water
"crick..crick..crick"	Common froglet <i>Crinia signifera</i>	From the water's edge or floating	All year	Light grey to brown to black, with patterns on back	Up to 30mm	Most habitats near water
A short trill	Painted burrowing frog <i>Neobatrachus sudelii</i>	Floating in water in ditches, ponds, claypans	usually after heavy rains	Grey, yellow or red-brown, with darker blotches. Stripe on back	Up to 40mm	Woodland, shrubland, grassland
A long trill	Mallee spadefoot <i>Neobatrachus pictus</i>	Floating in water	usually after heavy rains	Grey to yellow, & dark blotches. Stripe on back	Up to 50mm	Woodland, grassland, mallee

1. Tyler MJ (1997). *Action Plan for Australian Frogs*. With the assistance of the Editorial Advisory Commission. Wildlife Australia: Canberra