**SPRING PEEPER**  
The Tiny Frog with a Giant Voice

*Peep! Peep!* If there’s a wetland nearby, listen for loud peeps at night. These sounds come from a tiny frog called a spring peeper. In the spring, male peepers choose a patch of wetland about the size of a hula-hoop. Then they peep to attract female spring peepers.

**Meet the Spring Peeper**

- Peepers can handle cold weather. In the winter they can freeze nearly solid!
- They have sticky pads on the feet to help them climb plants.
- Peepers usually have an X-shaped mark on the back (this one has more of a Y).
- They can change into different shades of brown and tan to match the colors of the dead leaves on the forest floor.

**Listen for Peepers**

It can be hard to see a spring peeper. They are very small. A full-grown male can fit on top of a quarter. Females are larger—sometimes twice as large as males—but that’s still not very big! While listening for that peeping sound, investigate a little…

- Besides peeps, can you hear another sound like *brrrrrrt*? That’s a special call made by a male spring peeper who’s telling a nearby male, “You’re way too close! Get lost!”
- What day of the year do you hear spring peepers start calling? Write this down and compare it with dates from year to year!
- Can you hear any other spring nighttime animals? Wood frogs going *quack quack*? Woodcocks going *peent*?

**Peeper Paper Puppets**

**Materials:**
- a paper lunch bag
- construction paper
- scissors
- glue and/or tape
- something to color with

**TIPS!**

1) Wrap the tongue cutout around a pencil to make it curl
2) Use markers or crayons to make your frog blend in to the forest floor
3) Use a marker to draw the X on the back of your paper bag and you’ll have the perfect peeper!

Go to [massaudubon.org/go](http://massaudubon.org/go) to hear what a spring peeper sounds like and to find a template for the peeper puppet.