

SPRING PEEPER

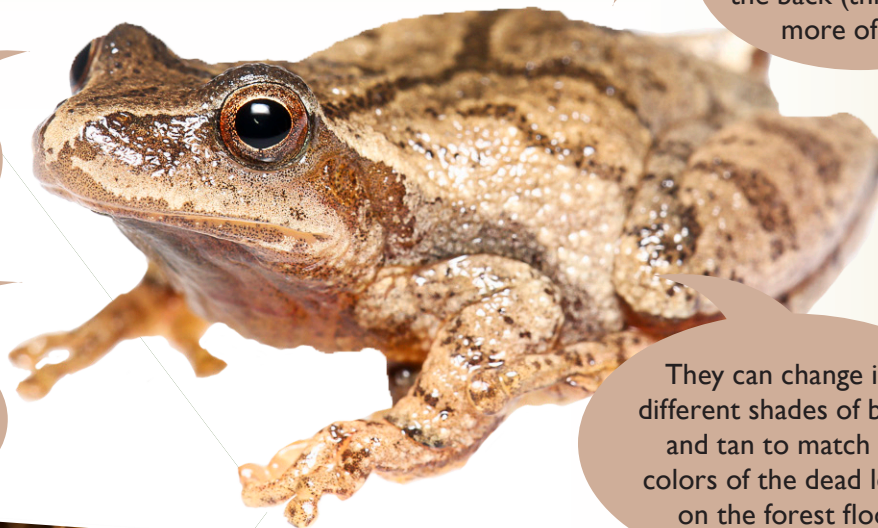


Mass Audubon

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...



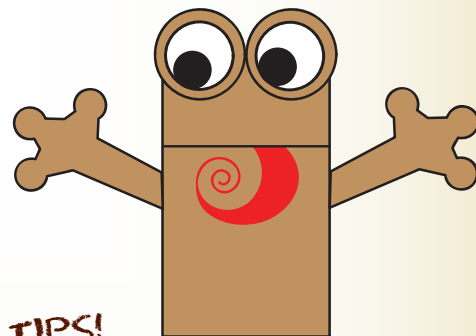
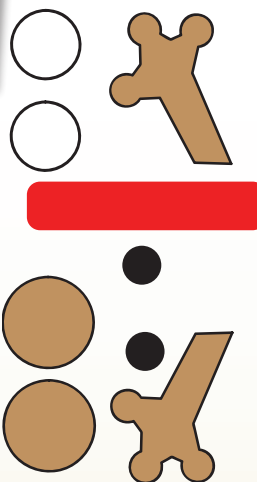
 Besides peeps, can you hear another sound like *brrrrrrt*? That's a special call made by a male spring peeper who's telling a nearby male, "You're way too close! Get lost!"

 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 • glue and/or tape
• construction paper • something to color with
• scissors



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 to hear what a spring peeper sounds like and to find a template for the peeper puppet.