

AMPHIBIOUS ARIZONA

Although Arizona is a pretty arid and dry state, Arizona is home to 26 different species of frogs and toads, 23 of which are considered indigenous, or native to the state.

The Colorado River Toad (*Incilius alvarius*)

The Colorado River Toad, also called the Sonoran Desert Toad, is a toad that is native to almost half of the state of Arizona. These toads are among the largest in the state, and only come out



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during the rainy season. They eat primarily beetles, but are known to eat other insects and small vertebrates like other frogs and toads. The Colorado River Toad provides a lot of the music of summer with their croaking, but they also make some people



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anxious: Colorado River Toads secrete a poison called a bufotoxin, which is highly toxic to cats and dogs. Big doses of bufotoxins are even dangerous to humans and can result in heart

attacks. Nonetheless, Colorado River Toads are an essential part of the desert ecosystem. If you see a Colorado River Toad, admire it from afar!

Did you know?

- ❖ The State Amphibian is the Arizona Treefrog (*Hyla wrightorum*).
- ❖ Frogs have always been important to the people of Arizona because the presence of frogs means that water is near. Many Native American people in Arizona use frogs to symbolize water or rain and the sound of frogs signals monsoon season for Arizona.
- ❖ All toads are frogs but not all frogs are toads. Frogs have smooth, slimy skin while toads look bumpy and drier.
- ❖ The Chiricahua Leopard Frog (*Lithobates chiricahuensis*) is a threatened species. They're a "true frog," which means that they need access to water continuously. Livestock grazing, urbanization, water diversion, and groundwater pumping all threaten the Chiricahua Leopard Frog.

Think about it!

- ❖ How do you think the growth of cities have impacted Arizona's amphibians?
- ❖ If frogs, not people, wrote history, how would it be different? What major events would they highlight?
- ❖ The habitats of many frogs will never be the same, what are some things you think you can do to help humans and frogs live in better harmony?

Want to learn more about Arizona's frogs and toads or hear recordings of frog and toad calls? Visit reptilesfaz.org and find the link for amphibians!



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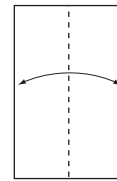
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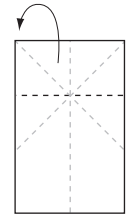
ORIGAMI COLORADO RIVER TOAD

Now it's time to fold your own hopping frogs! Print and cut out our Colorado River Toad template or grab and decorate any index card.

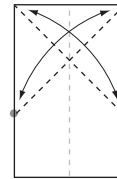
- 1 Start with the template, white side up, or an index card. Fold it in half, and open it.
- 2 Fold both top corners to the opposite edge of the paper. Your creases should look like this.
- 3 Where the diagonal creases meet in the middle, fold the paper backwards, crease well and open.
- 4 Hold the paper at the sides, bring these points down to the center line, then flatten. The creases should do most of the work here!
- 5 Fold the uppermost triangles up to the top point. Now you will have two small triangles on each side of a smaller triangle.
- 6 Fold each of the smaller rectangles toward the center line.
- 7 Fold bottom of paper upwards so the end sits in the center of the top diamond.
- 8 Now fold the same part downwards, in half.
- 9 Turn the frog over. Now you're ready to hop! Use a finger to push down gently on the back of the frog.



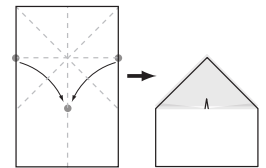
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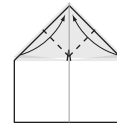
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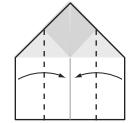
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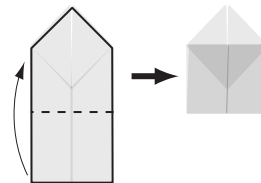
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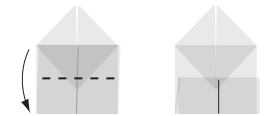
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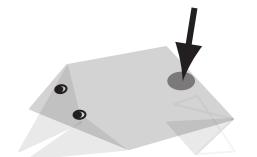


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Try to record how high your frog can jump! See if different sizes of frogs or different types of paper effect how high your frog can jump! You could also get a sibling or a parent to race frogs with you!

Why does the frog hop?

The origami frog can hop because of the folds that you've made for its legs. When you push down on it it's like compressing a spring, which stores energy. When you release the "spring," all of the energy comes exploding out, which makes the frog hop.



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COLORADO RIVER TOAD TEMPLATE



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