

All about the Water-Holding Frog

A Water-Holding Frog's Body

Water-holding frogs have wide heads and thick bodies. They also have webbed back feet. Water-holding frogs are usually gray, dark brown, or green and have a white belly. Their skin is smooth to the touch except for the warts spread over the body.

Where Does the Water-Holding Frog Live?

The water-holding frog lives in the dry deserts of Australia. In many ways, these frogs are just like any other, until the water from the last rains dry up.

An Amazing Adaptation!

A water-holding frog can store water in its body and live underground for a long time. When it rains, the water-holding frog **absorbs** half of its weight in water! This water is stored in its **bladder** and in pockets in its skin.

When the ground starts to dry up, the water-holding frog uses its webbed feet to dig. It digs deep into the ground to escape the sun and heat. The frog will then surround itself in a dead-skin **cocoon**. The cocoon helps the frog keep the water inside its body.

When the rain begins again, the water-holding frog will break out of its cocoon and dig out of the ground. It will then look for small frogs, tadpoles, and insects to eat.

Predators of the water-holding frog include birds, larger frogs and lizards.

The Water-Holding Frog's Life Cycle

The water-holding frog will look for a mate when it is above ground. Male water-holding frogs use a mating call to find a female. Once a male and female mate, the female water-holding frog will lay her eggs in a puddle. She may lay up to 500 eggs at a time!

When the eggs hatch, the tiny tadpoles must go through **metamorphosis** to become froglets before the ground dries up again.

Written by EL Education for Instructional Purposes
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Sources:

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Nic Bishop, *Frogs* (New York: Scholastic Nonfiction, 2008).

National Geographic video “Frogs and Toads: Freak of Nature: Water-Holding Frog,” (2:00),
© 1996–2012 National Geographic Society;

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/animals/amphibians-animals/frogs-and-toads/frog_waterholding/

Glossary:

absorb—take in or soak up

bladder—sac in humans and in animals that collects urine

cocoon—a covering or shell that wraps around

metamorphosis—changing from a young animal into an adult