



NATURE DETECTIVES





Hello Nature Detectives - are you ready to explore?

Today, let's discover amphibians. Remember to observe closely with your eyes, approach wildlife quietly and look for amphibians but *do not touch*. Enjoy!

Amphibians:




Begin your detective work by figuring out where your adventure will take you.

-  **Pond Walk:** Our frog friends live in and around water like green frogs and bullfrogs.
-  **Azalea Hill or Woodland Walk:** American toads and salamanders live in woodlands.



You can tell that an animal is an amphibian because it:

- Is a vertebrate which means it has a backbone. (Do you have a backbone? Feel it!)
- Has moist, porous skin which they can also breathe through.
- Undergoes metamorphosis - transforming from egg to tadpole/larva to adult.
- Is ectothermic, or cold-blooded, and can't control its own body temperature.

MOVE like an amphibian:

-  Frogs jump or hop long distances (have longer hind legs) ? *How far can you jump?*
-  Toads crawl or hop short distances (have shorter hind legs)
-  Salamanders walk with a swaying motion

LISTEN for frogs down at the pond:

-  Green frogs say GUNK! GUNK!-Gunk!-gunk! (sounds like a banjo string)
-  Bullfrogs say rumm . . . rumm . . . rumm (low bass notes)

Amphibians are *carnivores* (eat animals) - pretend you are one and **LOOK** for a meal:

Flies	Snails	Worms	Spiders	Pillbugs	Moths	Slugs	Aquatic Bugs
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? *What was your favorite part about discovering amphibians today?*

 *Find something cool? Share your detective skills with us: @JAGardens, #JenkinsArboretum*