

About Bullfrogs

Initially introduced in the early twentieth century for frog farming, Bullfrogs on Vancouver Island have been spreading aggressively over the last two decades. Habitat modification and human-facilitated introductions are accelerating this spread.



Once a population is established, eradication is very difficult and costly. In some areas, eradication may be impossible.

For more information about Bullfrogs or to report a sighting, visit web.uvic.ca/bullfrogs

Alternatives to Frogs in the Classroom

An alternative to keeping frogs in the classroom as pets is to visit them in their natural habitat. This kind of observation can provide a wealth of knowledge and experience to students. In streams and ponds you can watch all of the life cycles of an entire population, and frogs can be easy to hear and see at certain times of year.

Learn all about the diversity of frogs in BC and join in the Frogwatch BC program

www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frogwatch/

Preserve and enhance wetland habitats for native amphibians by becoming a WetlandKeeper

www.bcwf.bc.ca/programs/wetlands/

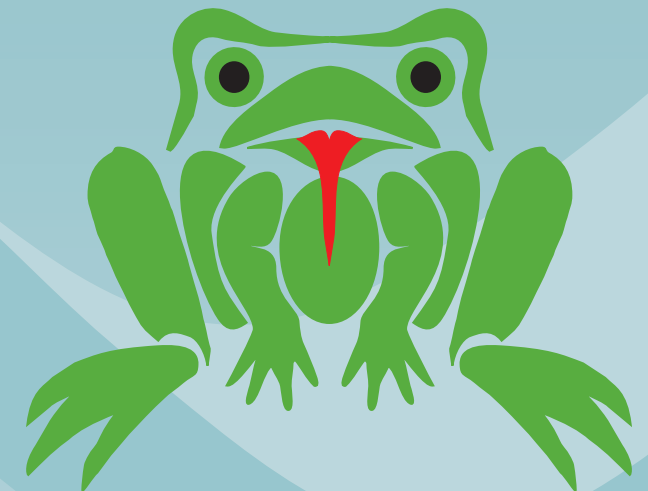
Learn all about the creatures that live in and use the wetlands

www.ducks.ca/aboutduc/how/edu.html



Frogs in the Classroom

A Guide to the **Threat** Posed by Classroom Pets



Canada

Funding for this project was provided in part by the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program, a Government of Canada Initiative

Frogs in the Classroom

Frogs are undeniably an exciting tool to teach students about complex life-cycles, metamorphosis and aquatic ecosystems. The frogs stimulate the students' curiosity, keep them focused during classes and promote respect and caring for non-human animals and their ecosystems. There is a long tradition of using frogs as teaching tools but we have recently realized that this practice may pose a very real danger to our native species and ecosystems.

The proper care of any frog is a big responsibility, and some species can live for more than ten years. Captive frogs cannot simply be released into a wetland or lake.

Introduced Bullfrog

Rana catesbeiana

5 to 20 cm



What is the Problem?

Collecting, transporting and keeping wild frogs violates the British Columbia Wildlife Act.

Released frogs can:

- introduce harmful pathogens and parasites
- increase competition with native/resident species for resources
- predate on native/resident species
- degrade the native/resident species gene pool

Amphibians have been declining globally, and seven of the eleven native frogs in BC are considered at risk. Biologists recommend we leave amphibians free and safeguard their wild populations.

Be aware that some pet stores and biological supply companies may sell species of amphibians that are banned in BC, including the Green frog (*Rana clamitans*) and the Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*). It is legal to purchase some frogs in the pet trade, but these frogs can never be released.

Native Red-legged Frog

Rana aurora

4 to 10 cm



How You Can Help

If you purchase a frog, please be sure to deal with a reputable company.

If you still choose to purchase a frog or toad in the classroom, determine what you will do with it at the end of the term, *before* making the purchase. Options include:

- Keeping it for the next semester or donating it to another teacher.
- Returning it to where it was bought (if the supplier will take it back).
- Donating it to a local museum or science centre (if they accept them).
- Humanely euthanizing it.

Although the release of "one little animal" into the wild may seem benign, the action has been shown to have serious ecological consequences.

Please don't turn it loose!

Native Pacific Treefrog

(Pacific Chorus Frog)

Pseudacris regilla

2 to 5 cm

