

Frog identification chart

Six regional examples | Eastern United States, with a Mid-Atlantic focus | Online Field Guide

Compare back ridges and facial markings. Color can change; some treefrogs need call evidence.

1. American bullfrog

Lithobates catesbeianus



Large round eardrum; no ridges along the back

Adult; side view

2. Green frog

Lithobates clamitans



Back ridges extend rearward from behind the eyes

Adult; back ridges visible

3. Pickerel frog

Lithobates palustris



Two rows of roughly rectangular dark back spots

Dorsal view; squarish spots

4. Wood frog

Lithobates sylvaticus



Dark eye mask on a tan or brown face

Adult; dark eye mask

5. Gray treefrog complex

Dryophytes versicolor / *D. chrysoscelis*



Mottled back; toe pads and pale cheek spot

Gray treefrog complex; representative

6. American toad

Anaxyrus americanus



Warty skin; raised glands behind the eyes

Adult; warty skin

1. beewonder
2. Bernie Paquette; CC BY 4.0.
3. Mark Connolly
4. Kristof Zyskowski; CC BY 4.0.
5. Erik Schiff
6. aiwendil

Comparison notes and photo credits

Frog chart companion | Original layout and wording by Online Field Guide

Frog	Habitat clue	Identification level	Seasonal occurrence
American bullfrog	Permanent ponds, lakes and slow-water edges	Species candidate	Spring through fall
Green frog	Ponds, streams, marshes and water gardens	Species candidate	Spring through fall
Pickerel frog	Cool streams, wet meadows and woodland wetlands	Species candidate	Spring through fall
Wood frog	Moist woods and seasonal woodland pools	Species candidate	Early spring breeding; active into fall
Gray treefrog complex	Trees, woodland edges and nearby breeding ponds	Species complex	Spring through fall; warm-season calling
American toad	Woods, gardens and fields near breeding water	Species candidate	Spring through fall

Seasonal activity is a broad regional clue rather than an exact calling calendar. Frogs may remain hidden even during active months, and breeding seasons differ among species.

Photo credits and original file links

1. **American bullfrog:** *Lithobates catesbeianus* - iNaturalist photo 176182589, by beewonder.
2. **Green frog:** *Lithobates clamitans* - iNaturalist photo 525801187, by Bernie Paquette. CC BY 4.0.
3. **Pickerel frog:** *Lithobates palustris* - iNaturalist photo 120601611, by Mark Connolly.
4. **Wood frog:** *Lithobates sylvaticus* - iNaturalist photo 109663430, by Kristof Zyskowski. CC BY 4.0.
5. **Gray treefrog complex:** *Dryophytes versicolor* - iNaturalist photo 312200781, by Erik Schiff.
6. **American toad:** *Anaxyrus americanus* - iNaturalist photo 95383959, by aiwendil.

Identification references: American bullfrog; Green frog; Pickerel frog; Wood frog; Gray treefrog complex; American toad.

This chart compares regional examples; it is not a complete species key.