

WHERE TO FIND FROGS GUIDE



Frog Census

Where to find frogs

To get involved in the Frog Census you first need to know where to find frogs. This booklet will introduce you to some general types of frog habitat and how they use habitats at different life stages.

Frogs can be found in a diversity of habitats, however the presence of water – temporary or permanent – is key to all of them. To select a site to monitor frogs, investigate your local area for any of the habitat types depicted below.

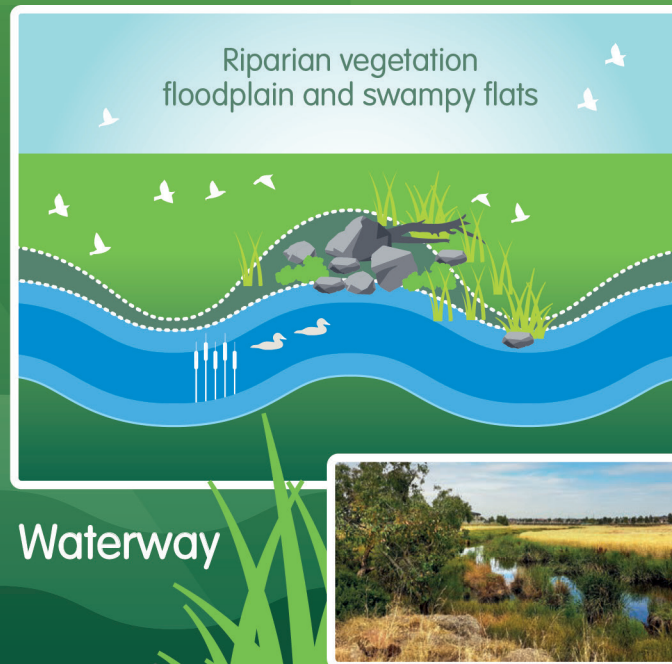
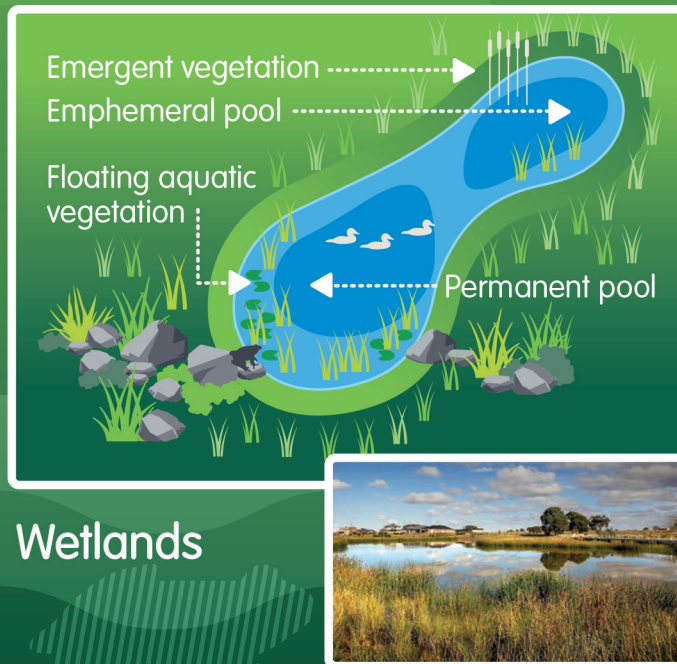
Frogs are 'amphibians' (ancient Greek: 'two lives') and have both aquatic and terrestrial life stages. Frogs are dependent on water for breeding (egg-laying and tadpole life stages). Requirements for the size of the waterbody and the length of time it holds water vary by species.



Consult the Melbourne Water Frog Census app for more information on individual species.

Adult frogs are also water-dependent, however most species spend a majority of time on land rather than within water. Frogs do not drink, instead they absorb water through their skin from their surroundings. To avoid dehydration, frogs shelter in microhabitats that retain moisture such as logs, rocks, grass tussocks, mulch and even among pot plants. Others burrow down into moister layers of soil during dry weather. Most species of frog are primarily active at night to conserve moisture and avoid detection by predators.

During breeding seasons adult male frogs will position themselves within and around waterbodies and call loudly to attract females. Calling males generally conceal themselves amongst floating aquatic vegetation or emergent vegetation such as reeds.



Breeding microhabitats & Egg masses

Frog species vary widely in their selection of microhabitats to breed and lay eggs within. Some examples are depicted below.

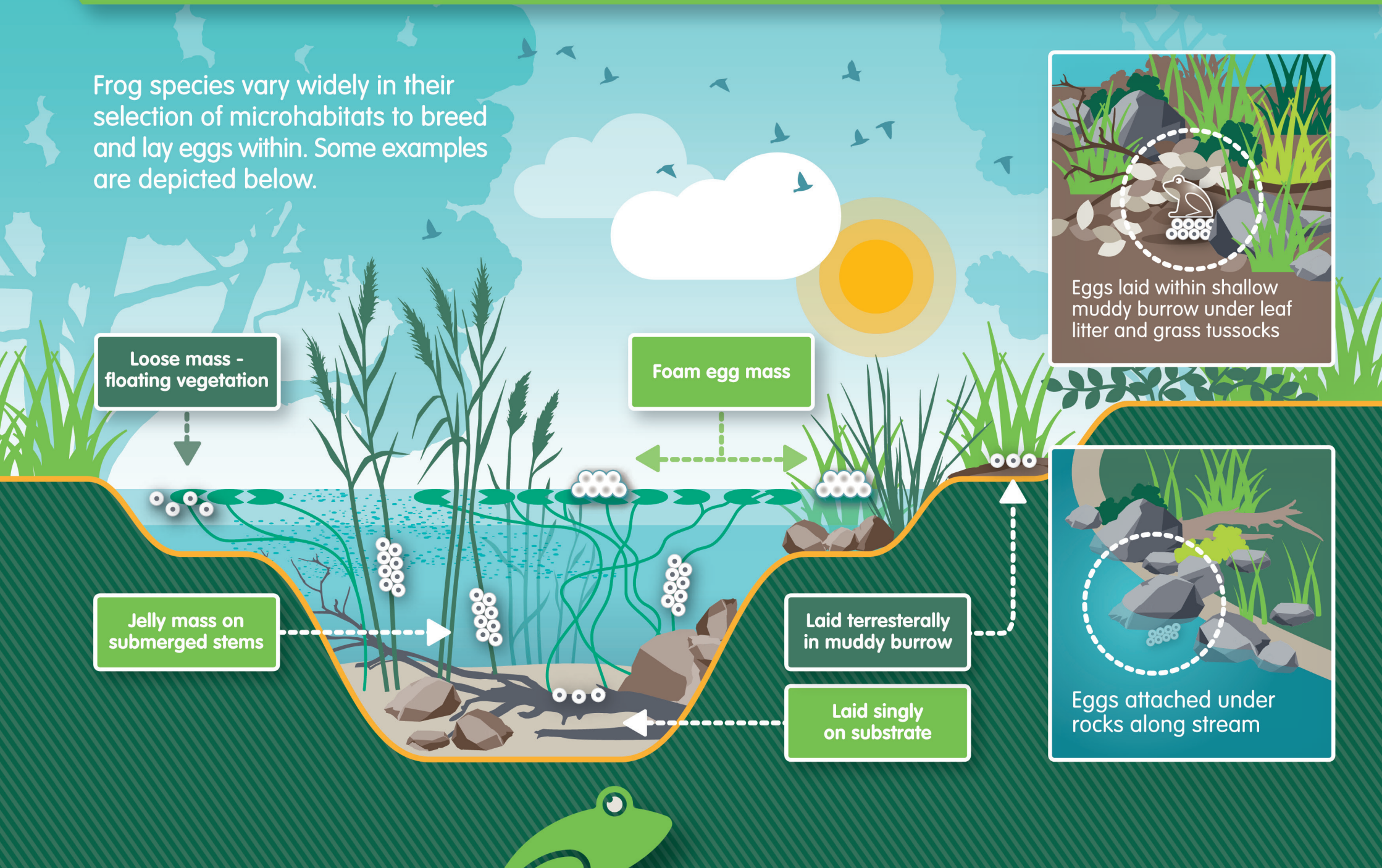
Loose mass -
floating vegetation

Foam egg mass

Jelly mass on
submerged stems

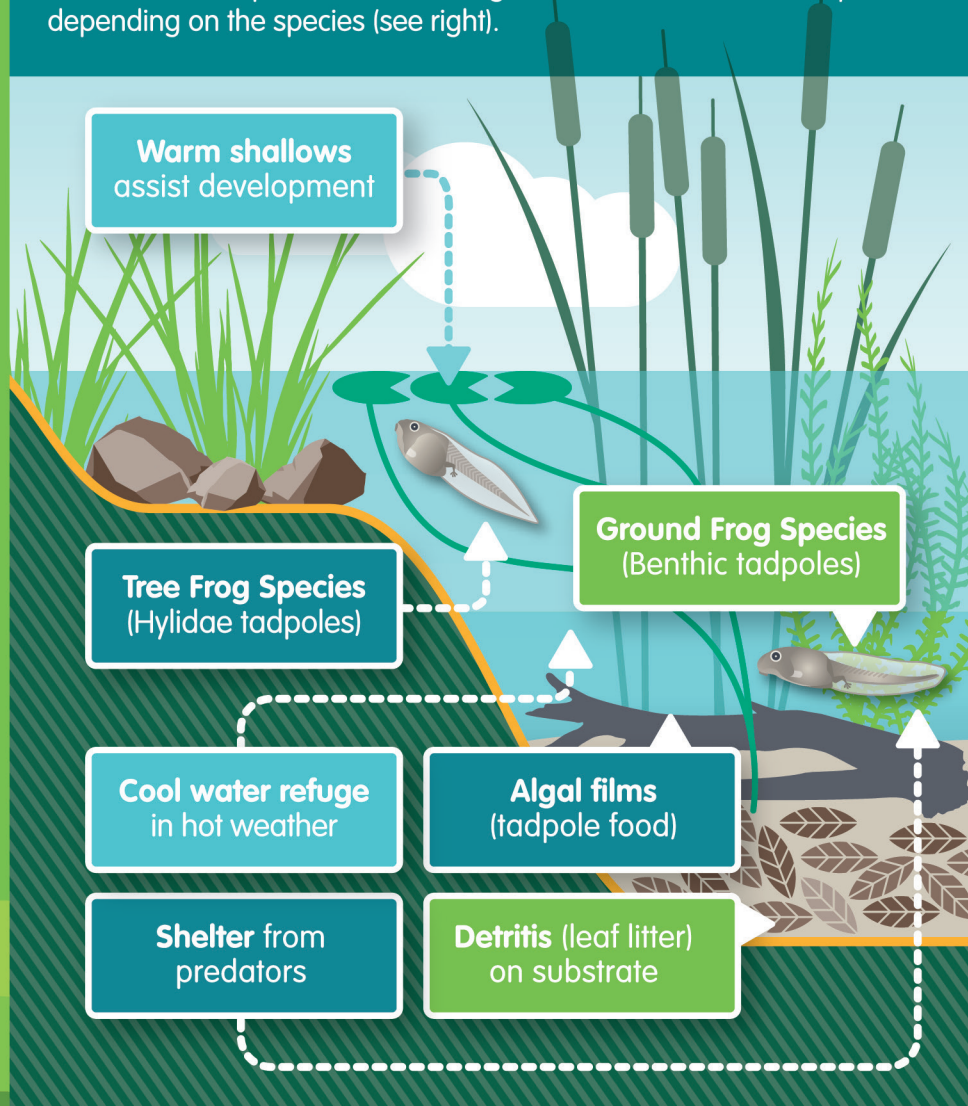
Laid terrestrially
in muddy burrow

Laid singly
on substrate



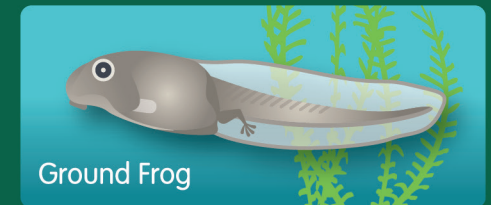
Tadpole habitats

The size, appearance and behaviour of tadpoles can vary widely between species. Tadpoles are grazers with horny beaks that feed on algal films and detritus. Tadpoles will use a range of microhabitats within a pond, depending on the species (see right).

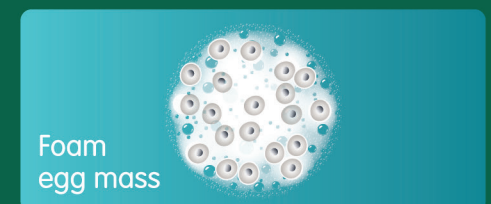
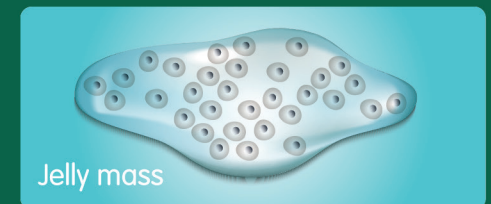


Tadpole types & Egg mass

Typically, tree frog (Hylidae) tadpoles tend to feed in the upper and middle depths of a pond, and hover head up wiggling the tip of the tail. Ground frog tadpoles (Myobatrachidae eg Eastern Common Froglet, marsh frog species) tend to feed and rest on the bottom (benthic) or middle depths of the pond.



Egg mass - Frog eggs come in a diverse range of forms depending on species, here are some examples of egg masses you may encounter in the field.



For more information on where to find frogs, visit:



www.melbournewater.com.au/frogcensus

Waterwatch engages with the community to protect our environment. To connect with your local community group, please contact waterwatch@melbournewater.com.au or call Melbourne Water on 131 722.

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