



Amphibiana

# Warty TOADS



by Meish Goldish

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# Warty TOADS



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# Magical Creatures

Do toads have magical powers? About 2,000 years ago, people in ancient Rome thought so. They believed that if they dropped a small bone from the right side of a toad's body into boiling water, it would turn the water cold. They claimed that a bone from the left side of a toad's body could stop angry dogs from attacking anyone who held it.

In ancient times, people believed that toads had the power to make a noisy room quiet.



People also believed there was a jewel called a toadstone inside a toad's head. They thought the jewel, when taken out and placed in a ring or necklace, would heat up or change color when it came near poison. This would alert the person wearing it to danger. Today, people know that these ancient beliefs are false. Nevertheless, toads are still fascinating creatures!

This drawing from 1491 shows a man taking a toadstone from the head of a toad.



In the play *As You Like It*, written about 400 years ago by William Shakespeare, a toad is described as having "a precious jewel in his head."



# Toads and Frogs

Many people think that toads look like frogs. That's not too surprising. Toads are actually a type of frog. In fact, both kinds of creatures belong to a group of animals called **amphibians**. These animals usually spend their early life in water and their adult life on land.



Western toad



Red-eyed tree frog

There are about 4,000 types of frogs. More than 500 of them are toads.



Frogs that are not toads are called **true frogs**. Though closely related, toads and true frogs are different in many ways. True frogs have thin, wet, smooth skin. Toads have thick, dry skin with rough bumps called warts. True frogs have long back legs for leaping high, while toads have short back legs for walking and hopping. Though they have their differences, both true frogs and toads stay mainly on land during their adult lives.

Toads are usually brown, gray, or green.

warts

Many people think that a person can get warts by touching a toad. However, that is not true.

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## About the Author

Meish Goldish has written more than 200 books for children.  
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# Warty TOADS

In ancient times, people believed that toads had the power to make a noisy room quiet. Today, people know that isn't true. However, toads are still some of the most fascinating creatures around. With their dry, warty skin and their fast-moving, sticky tongues, these incredible animals make their homes in forests, parks, mountains, deserts, and lakes all around the world.

Look inside to find out more about these unusual creatures. You'll discover what they eat, how they stay safe, and what kinds of surprising changes they go through as they grow from tiny eggs to warty adults.

**Amazing Water Frogs**

**Slimy Salamanders**

**Leaping Ground Frogs**

**Tricky Tree Frogs**

**Little Newts**

**Warty Toads**



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