

Amphibiana

Tricky TREE FROGS



by Natalie Lunis

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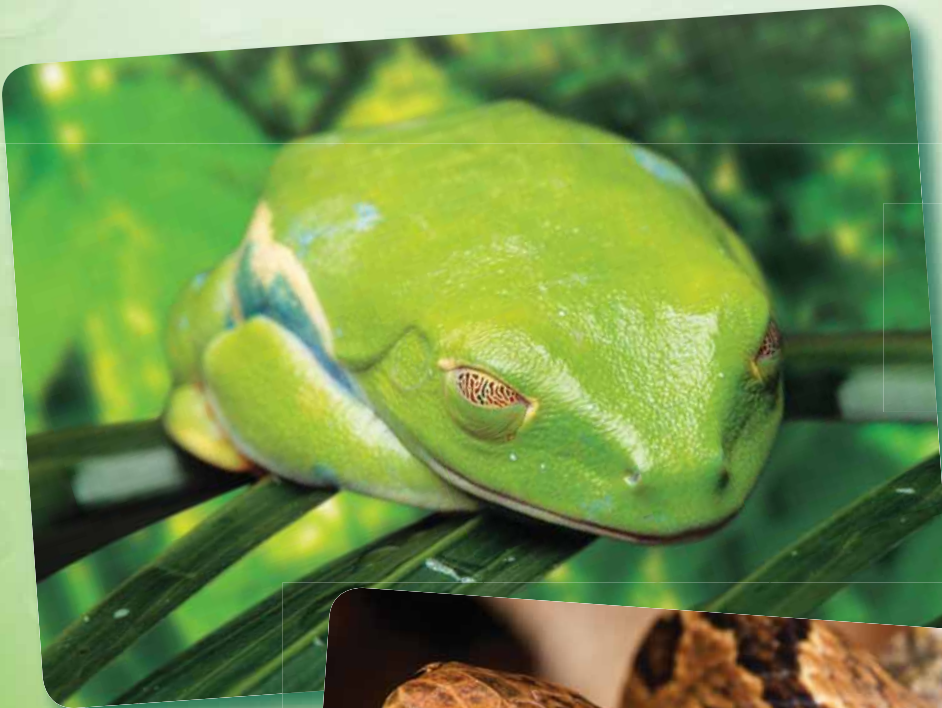
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A Flash of Color

High up in a tree, a red-eyed tree frog sits still on a leaf. Its legs are tucked in close to its body. Silently, a cat-eyed snake slithers along the same branch, flicking its tongue in and out. It has picked up the scent of the sleeping frog.



◀ A red-eyed tree frog asleep



The cat-eyed snake ▶ is one of many kinds of snakes that hunt red-eyed tree frogs.

Before the snake can move in for the kill, however, the little frog opens its big red eyes. It quickly stretches its body out and shows the bright blue and orange markings on its sides and feet. The flashes of color startle the snake, giving the frog a chance to leap to another tree—and to safety.

A red-eyed tree frog showing its colors



Sometimes a red-eyed tree frog's big red eyes are enough to startle an enemy long enough for the frog to get away.

A World of Frogs

People are often surprised to learn that some frogs live in trees. Yet about a third of the 4,000 **species** of frogs in the world are tree frogs. They live in bushes and tall grasses, as well as in trees. Where do all the other kinds of frogs live? Many live in water. The rest live on the ground, often digging holes to make safe underground homes.




◀ The green frog is a common frog that lives mostly in the water.

The striped ▶ burrowing frog lives on the ground.



Like all frogs, tree frogs belong to a large group of animals called **amphibians**. Most of the animals in this group begin their lives in water and then move onto land. Toads, salamanders, and newts are also amphibians.

◀ Like many frogs that live outside the water, the eastern gray tree frog depends on humidity in the air to keep its skin moist.



As adults, frogs and most other amphibians use body parts called **lungs** to breathe air. However, they also breathe through tiny holes in their moist skin. If an amphibian's skin dries out, it stops getting enough air and dies.

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Learn More Online

To learn more about tree frogs, visit
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About the Author

Natalie Lunis has written many science and nature books for children. She lives in the Hudson River Valley, just north of New York City.

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Tricky TREE FROGS

Get ready to meet some of the trickiest frogs on Earth—but don't look down into the water to find them. Instead, take a peek up in the trees. That's where these little amphibians do most of their leaping. They also do plenty of climbing, with the help of big, sticky toe pads on their feet.

Look inside to find out more about these tricky creatures. As you do, you'll discover where in the world they live, how they stay safe, and what kinds of surprising changes they go through as they grow from tiny eggs to tree-climbing adults.

Amazing Water Frogs

Leaping Ground Frogs

Little Newts

Slimy Salamanders

Tricky Tree Frogs

Warty Toads



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