# EDZOOCATION ACTIVITY: FROG & BOG DAY



We're celebrating Frog and Bog Day at the Virginia Zoo! Many animals live in bogs, which are wet, muddy areas, and are important to the world around us, but let's focus on frogs and a tiny turtle called a Bog turtle. Both help us out by eating lots of pests like bugs and telling us if the area around us is healthy or not.

## FROG LIFE CYCLE

Frogs go through many changes in their lives, also known as a life cycle. You can learn all about how a frog changes and help out the frog on this page by drawing it as it goes through its life cycle.

Look at these slimy eggs! They don't have shells like chicken eggs because frog eggs are laid in water or wet ground. Some frogs lay hundreds of eggs at a time! Help add more eggs by drawing them above.



drawing our frog.

Stage 2: Whoa, the eggs have changed into tadpoles! These funky looking things have a body, tail, and outside gills. **Draw more friends for our tadpole!** 



Stage 3: Our tadpole friends grew 2 back legs.

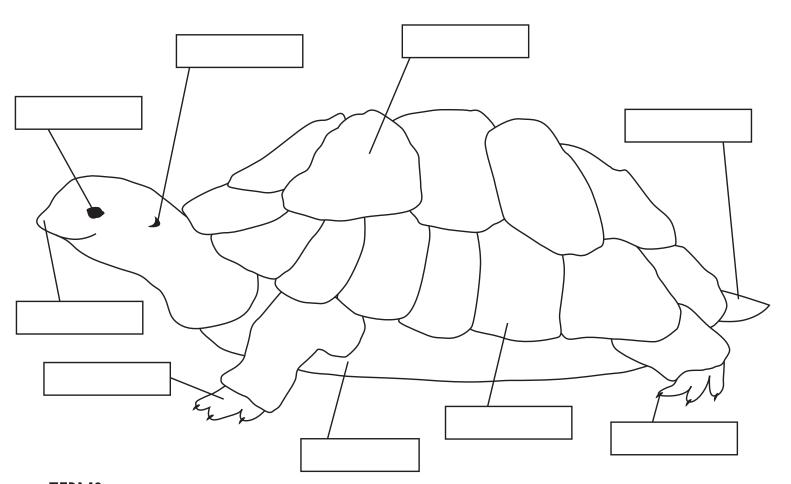
Draw what you think it might look like now.

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### LABEL A BOG TURTLE

Bog turtles are the smallest turtle species in the United States at only 2.5 inches long as an adult! Although they are small, they do big things like help grow new plants! Bog turtles plant seeds, but not quite like we do... they poop them out after eating and digesting them! Can you label the parts of our turtle, including its mouth, using the list below? Don't forget to color your turtle when you're done!



#### **TERMS**

- ☐ **Eye**: Two of these help turtles look out for food and predators!
- ☐ **Tympanum:** Turtles don't have external ears. They feel vibrations and changes in water pressure, which can tell them where food or a predator might be.
- ☐ **Beak:** Like birds, turtles can have this mouth part to help crunch through snail shells or thick plants.
- ☐ **Feet:** Turtle feet are often webbed to help them swim faster!
- ☐ **Claws:** Each foot has these to help dig through soil for food, egg-laying, nesting, or winter brumation (a reptile version of hibernation).

- ☐ **Tail:** This part of a turtle hides its reproductive organs and more.
- ☐ **Carapace:** This is the hard top shell of a turtle that protects against predators. The turtle's spine and ribs are attached on the inside of this piece.
- ☐ **Plastron:** This is the hard bottom shell of a turtle that protects against predators. Some turtles have a hinged one, which allows the turtle to pull its body into the shell and completely close it!
- ☐ **Scutes:** These are the individual plates that make up the carapace. They are made out of keratin the same material as our hair and nails!