Biodiversity Explorer Kit

Guides for Observing and Documenting Life Around You
GET STARTED WITH AMPHIBIANS

Amphibians are vertebrates (animals with a backbone) who need water or moist environments to survive. They are cold-blooded and have life cycles that use both land and water. The types of amphibians are – frogs, toads, salamanders, caecilians, and newts.

They have special skin through which they breathe, as well as absorb water. They thrive in a variety of habitats and exhibit fantastic adaptations (e.g. bush frogs, tree frogs, gliding frogs, poison dart frogs and many more!)

MAKING OBSERVATIONS

- Many are nocturnal, they communicate constantly through sounds by which they can be identified
- Pay attention to appearance – colours? unique markings? patterns? stripes? spots?
- Observe their limbs and the shape of their digits (fingers and toes)
- Look for behaviours – stretching, croaking, mating or feeding
- Note their skin – is it smooth? rough? warty?
- Distinctions between ventral (topside) and dorsal (underside) body
- Shape and colour of the eye, iris, presence or absence of an eye ring
Amphibians can glide, hop, swim, and leap - which means you can find them in many niches.

Start exploring in and around water - shallow edges, puddles.

Look near grassy areas.

Near areas where prey (like insects) is abundant.

Search on trees and near agricultural fields.

Look for eggs and tadpoles especially in water.

**Field Tips**

**Eastern Himalayan Crocodile Newt**

**Indian Burrowing Frog**

**Malabar Gliding Frog**

**Jerdon’s Tree Frog**

**Caecilian** lives underground or in shallow streams.

**Types of Feet**

- Terrestrial
- Aquatic
- Arboreal

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This 'Biodiversity Explorer Kit' is for simply anybody to fall in love with biodiversity in your backyard and engage with the captivating flora, fauna, and fungi we live with. It comprises a series of guides for invertebrates, birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and plants as well as one on how to Photograph Nature for Citizen Science.

WWF-India is committed to creating and demonstrating practical solutions that help conserve India's ecosystems and rich biodiversity. With a conservation journey spanning over 50 years, WWF-India works towards finding science-based and sustainable solutions. We work in different geographical regions pan-India through state and field offices. The uniqueness lies in the interconnectedness of our work and its impact across thematic areas, including conservation of key wildlife species, management of their habitats; rivers and wetlands; climate change adaptation; driving sustainable solutions for business and agriculture; empowering local communities as conservation stewards; combating illegal wildlife trade, as well as environmental education to students through outreach and awareness campaigns.

This resource has been developed by Nature Connect, an initiative of WWF-India's extensive Environment Education programme working pan-India. We focus on biodiversity education through immersive nature-based learning experiences geared towards taking localised actions and community building. Connect with us at +91-7011390259 or edu@wwfindia.net.

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