

# Frogs



The color **green** is emphasized throughout *Frogs*. Help your child discover the different shades we call **green** by heading outside. Stand in a single spot and have him find all the things that are **green**. How many shades can he find in a single tree? Even in winter, there's plenty of **green** if you look around.



*Frogs* features the letter "f." The "f" sound is called "**unvoiced**" because it is made by blowing air through our lips and teeth without any sound. Add "**voice**" and you get a "v" sound. Teach your child to distinguish between these sound cousins by saying a syllable first with one sound and then the other (for example: fin/vin, vood/food, iv/if). See if your child can tell which is which.

## Where in the WORLD? ● Frogs

Frogs are found everywhere in the world except for Antarctica.



## Reading Resource

Every title in the *Zootles* series is designed to be used for fun and learning, and as a reading resource as well. The pages are written simply and address various stages of emerging literacy, and they encourage new readers to exercise their new skills at just the right level.

Reading *Zootles* together will provide "together time" for you and your child—and reinforce vocabulary, comprehension, and early reading skills, too.

## It's a ZOO out there!

Frogs are wonderful to watch, but easier to hear. Head toward any pond, stream, or creek on a spring or summer evening, listen for their calls, and then go "hunting." Look by plants growing at the shoreline for frog eggs and tadpoles. You can also visit a nature center and ask a ranger to suggest prime frog-watching spots. The nature center may even have a tank with tadpoles and frogs to observe. You'll reinforce learning and foster careful observation skills if you look for the frog features and behaviors mentioned:

- What color is the frog? Is the frog trying to blend into its surroundings or shout out its whereabouts?
- Is the frog by itself or with other frogs?
- Notice where the frog's eyes are located on its head. How does that compare to a person's eyes or eyes on your pets?
- After the frog sees you, notice how far it jumps. Where does it go to get away?

# Fill-In Fun!

Frog starts with the letter "f," but many other animals have the letter "f" in their names, too. Put an "f" in each blank to see them.



\_\_ox



gold\_\_ish



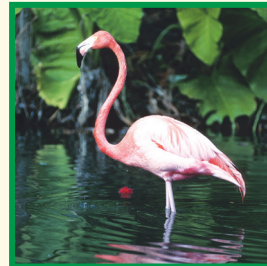
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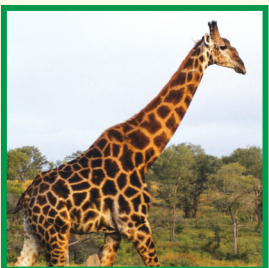
butter\_\_ly



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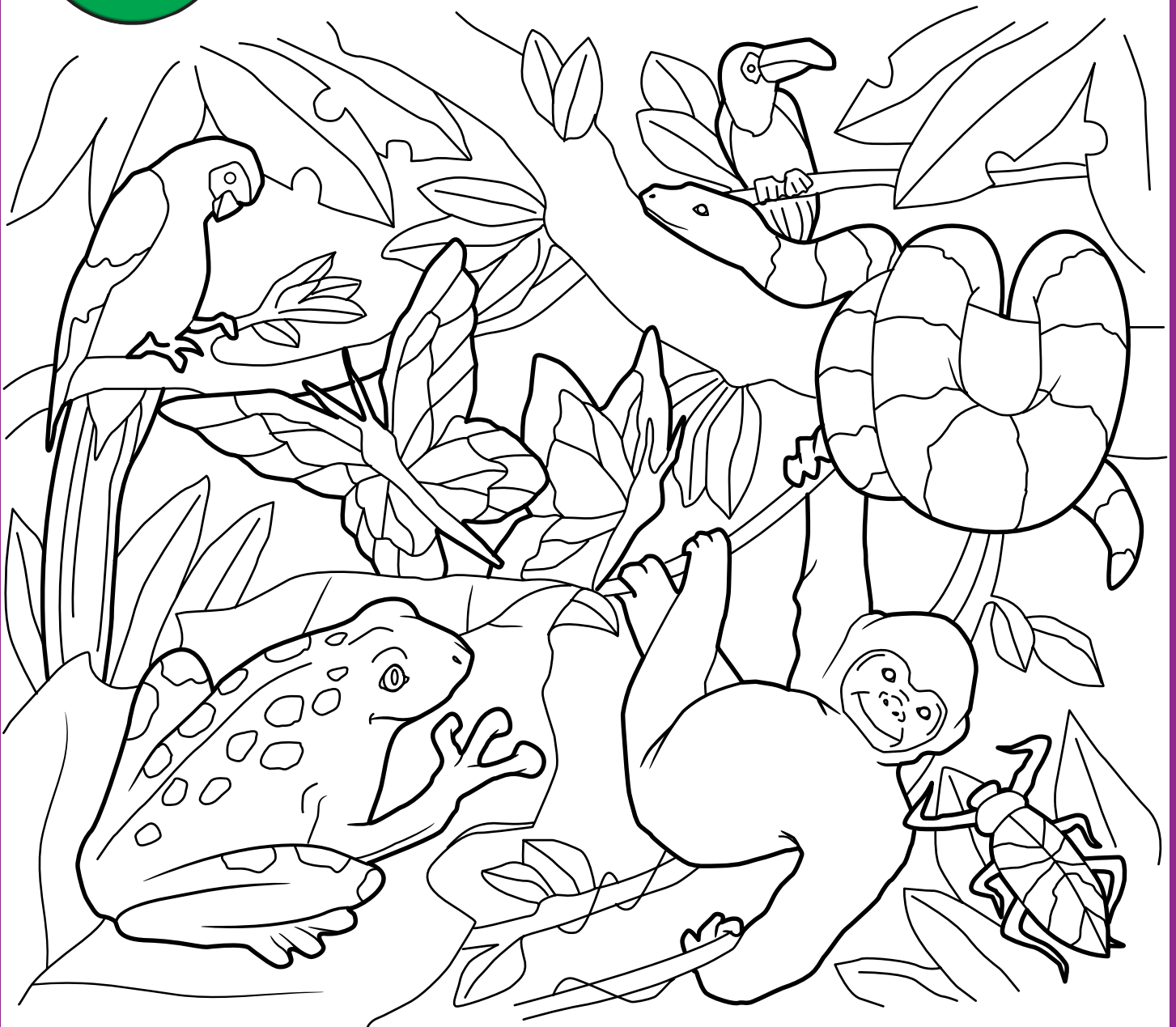
**Ff**

- Sometimes the letter "f" is found at the beginning of a word, as in "frog." How many of the animal names on this page begin with the letter "f"?
- Other times, the letter "f" is found in the middle of a word, as in "goldfish." How many of the animal names on this page have the letter "f" somewhere in the middle?
- How many of the animal names on this page end with the letter "f"?

# A GREEN Scene

Green

The rain forest is full of growing **green** plants. It's home to lots of different animals, some of which are **green**, too. Can you find the frog, the snake, and the parrot? Color them **green**—then color all the other animals, too!





## What ELSE can we DO?

• **Fun Frog Facts (p. 2–3)** Frogs have evolved amazing ways to survive on land and in water. Those mighty legs help them to both hop and swim.

• **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Just what does it mean to jump 20 times your own length? Go to a sidewalk with chalk, string, and scissors. Have your child lie down and mark where her head begins and feet end. Cut a piece of string that length. Using the string, help your child measure 19 more lengths, marking each length with the chalk to keep track. How far could you jump if you were a frog?

• **A Rainbow of Frogs (p. 4–5)** This hidden-picture puzzle helps children learn to categorize. Trying to figure out what makes things part of a group forms the basis for much scientific thinking (biologists are forever trying to differentiate among species).

• **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Frogs can be categorized as poisonous or nonpoisonous. Take this opportunity to make sure your child knows the difference between these terms. Buy some stickers labeled “poison” and have your child help you mark dangerous substances around the house as you review safety rules.

• **Webbed, Weird, and Wonderful (p. 6–7)**

The more we look at the natural world, the more amazing it appears, and these frogs are no exception.

• **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Play an imagination game. What would a frog be like if it were combined with some other animal? What would a lion-frog say? What would a butterfly-frog look like? Your child can describe, draw, or act out his answers.

• **Fast-Food Frog (p. 8–9)** When frogs flick their sticky tongues for food, they don’t chew their prey, but swallow it whole. (The few species with teeth just use them for grabbing.)

• **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Serve some sticky-tongue snacks. Cut a flour tortilla into half-inch-wide strips. Spread them with something sticky, like peanut butter. Your child can stick a “fly” on the end, perhaps a raisin or peanut. Then she can fold up the tortilla “tongue” before she pops it in her mouth.

• **From Egg to Frog (p. 10–11)** One of the precursors of reading comprehension is sequencing, the ability to recall and retell the parts of a story in order, which develops during the preschool and kindergarten years. The notion of *first . . . second . . . third* is an important math skill as well.

• **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Make a copy of the five metamorphosis pictures and cut them apart (or make simple drawings on index cards that show the same thing). Mix up the cards and have your child lay them out in the correct order. With a camera, you can take pictures of other sequences, such as setting the table, and play the same game. About four to seven pictures per sequence is good for this age group.

• **Bill Looks Out (p. 12–15)** Many frogs can sit on a lily pad or on the bottom of a pond with equal ease. Buoyancy, a principle first explained by the Greek mathematician Archimedes, is what makes that possible.

• **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Be like Archimedes! You’ll need the cap to a ballpoint pen, modeling clay, a glass, and a plastic half-liter water bottle. Make a “frog” by plugging the little hole at the tip of the cap with a tiny bit of clay. Next, stick a marble-sized ball of clay on the clip. Test your frog’s buoyancy by gently lowering it, ball first, into a glass of water. If it sinks, use less clay. The top of the pen cap should just barely float in the water. Now lower the frog into the nearly full water bottle. Screw the cap on tightly. Squeeze the sides and your frog will dive to the bottom. Let go, and it heads back up!

• **The Adventures of Otto and Allie (Back Cover)** Otto and Allie know that one of the true pleasures of a summer evening is sitting by a pond, listening to frogs.

• **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Teach your child how to blow across the top of an empty bottle. The bottle works the same way as the pouch under a frog’s throat, providing a chamber where sound can resonate. With a plastic bottle, you can feel the sound vibrations through your fingers.

