

THE ARBORETUM AT PENN STATE



AMERICAN BULLFROG

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NAME: *Lithobates catesbeianus*

CONSERVATION STATUS:



SIZE: 8 inches

WEIGHT: 2 ounces

GROUP TERM: army; colony; chorus

NUMBER OF YOUNG: 20,000

HABITAT: warm, shallow water

LIFESPAN: 7–9 years

DISTRIBUTION:



AMERICAN BULLFROG

DESCRIPTION

One of the widest-ranging North American amphibians, the American bullfrog enjoys basking in swamps, ponds, and lakes. It is the largest species of frog in Pennsylvania, easily identified by its greenish-brown coloration and round tympani (eardrums) located just behind the frog's eyes. Males can be distinguished from females by their smaller size, yellow throat, and deep, resonating *rum, rum, jug-o-rum* mating call in the spring. In California, the American bullfrog is displacing the red-legged frog, leading to the decline of this vulnerable species.

DIET

The American bullfrog eats a variety of insects, tetrapods (reptiles and amphibians), and invertebrates, including small snakes, worms, tadpoles, and other frogs, and the eggs of fish, insects, and salamanders.

THREATS

Frogs are often preyed upon by raccoons, snakes, turtles, and some species of wading birds. In the Southern and Midwestern United States, bullfrogs are harvested for their legs as a cuisine delicacy.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The American bullfrog is able to jump forward 3 to 6 feet in a single leap!
- The call of this species can travel over half a mile.
- The female bullfrog may lay as many as 20,000 eggs, which float on the water's surface before hatching into tadpoles.

"Animals: American Bullfrog." National Geographic, n.d. Web. 22 June 2017.

Bruening, Sandra. "Lithobates catesbeianus (american bullfrog)." *Animal Diversity Web*. University of Michigan (Museum of Zoology), 2002. Web. 22 June 2017.

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