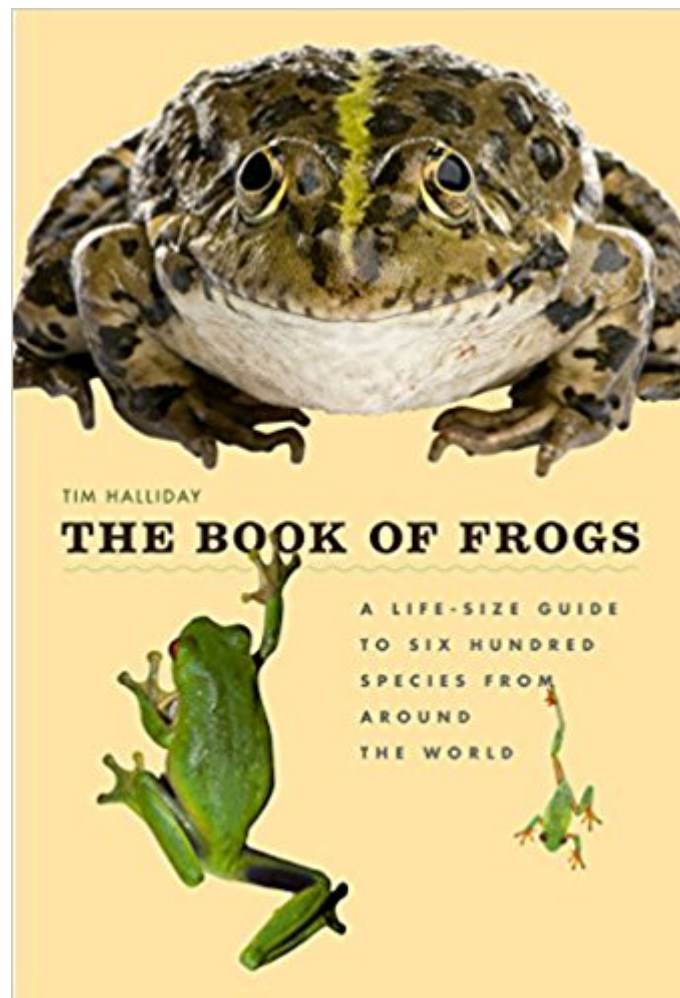




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The Book Of Frogs: A Life-Size Guide To Six Hundred Species From Around The World



Synopsis

With over 7,000 known species, frogs display a stunning array of forms and behaviors. A single gram of the toxin produced by the skin of the Golden Poison Frog can kill 100,000 people. Male Darwin's Frogs carry their tadpoles in their vocal sacs for sixty days before coughing them out into the world. The Wood Frogs of North America freeze every winter, reanimating in the spring from the glucose and urea that prevent cell collapse. The Book of Frogs commemorates the diversity and magnificence of all of these creatures, and many more. Six hundred of nature's most fascinating frog species are displayed, with each entry including a distribution map, sketches of the frogs, species identification, natural history, and conservation status. Life-size color photos show the frogs at their actual size—including the colossal seven-pound Goliath Frog. Accessibly written by expert Tim Halliday and containing the most up-to-date information, The Book of Frogs will captivate both veteran researchers and amateur herpetologists. As frogs increasingly make headlines for their troubling worldwide decline, the importance of these fascinating creatures to their ecosystems remains underappreciated. The Book of Frogs brings readers face to face with six hundred astonishingly unique and irreplaceable species that display a diverse array of adaptations to habitats that are under threat of destruction throughout the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"If you are a serious (and I mean serious) fan of the frog, you are in for a real treat. From poisonous frogs to tiny toenail-sized frogs, whistlers, explosive breeders, endangered frogs, and recently

discovered frogs, author and one of the world's leading frog experts Tim Halliday covers an exhaustive gamut of frog species from around the planet. A wonderful source for anyone trying to decipher and learn about frogs they find in nature." (Boing Boing)"A huge, beautiful compendium of 600 frogs from around the world, from the famed poison-arrow variety on up to the intriguingly named plaintive rain frog. The book is a looker." (Wired)"An unlikely human phenomena, an exploration of the intricacies and eccentricities of our world and the amount of knowledge it is possible for one person to possess and present with inspiringly obvious passion. Halliday's personality pops on every page, rendering even the duller frogs adorable through his eyes. Halliday captures both the extraordinary and ordinary of frogs in the same breathless prose that you wrote in love notes to your eighth-grade crush. Couple that with six hundred beautifully composed pictures of sometimes beautiful animals, and you've got yourself one hell of a novelty book. In its several months as the centerpiece of my coffee table, The Book of Frogs has generated more conversation than any other item in my apartment. It's an aesthetic pleasure as an art object, informative as a reference guide." (Spectrum Culture)"Scientific knowledge about frogs has been increasing rapidly. For example, the number of described species has jumped from 5,000 to more than 7,000 in the last 15 years. At the same time, frogs are a focus of great concern due to severe population declines and extinctions worldwide. This large book by amphibian expert Halliday is a photographically rich introduction to the global diversity of frogs." (Choice)"Glorious, magnificent new behemoth of a book. Wisely, Halliday chooses to stick to the basics. His enormous book "a big, beautiful hardcover filled with color photos" follows a close-focused remit, giving a one-page snapshot of some 600 species of the world's frogs. In the book's mesmerizing master stroke, there's also a life-sized photo of each frog, from the ones as small as your fingernail to the ones as big as a fat Guinea Pig. It's a stunning cavalcade, ranging from dull and knobby toads to tree frogs of almost translucent beauty. It's a joyous experience to savor the unbridled strangeness, the bursting profusion in The Book of Frogs." • (Open Letters Monthly)"An in-depth ecology not of all the world's frogs and toads, but of a representative fascinating ten per cent--what a superb 600 it is! . . . The Book of Frogs does a splendid job of showing the diversity of frogs and toads." • (Times Literary Supplement)"A rich compendium of 600 frog species, including many that are critically endangered. This taxonomy provides complete distribution, natural history, and conservation status information, as well as life-size photographs for each species, and is laden with fascinating facts that emphasize the diversity of frogs and the many risks to their persistence worldwide." (Ecology)"Halliday has compiled an extensive compendium of frogs, and presents a wide array of fascinating facts in rich prose....The real selling point is the full-color photos, showing

the actual size of each frog. The Book of Frogs is the perfect coffee table book for anyone with a passing interest in Anura." (Conservation Biology)"This book will be a wonderful source of basic information for any young person who has become fascinated with frogs, or anyone unfamiliar with frogs who has a desire to learn more about their diversity and biology." (Quarterly Review of Biology)

Tim Halliday is one of the world's foremost authorities on amphibians. He was formerly professor of biology at the Open University and was International Director of the IUCN Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force for thirteen years.

Big, beautiful photos of frogs and lots of interesting tidbits of information. I am learning a lot about my favorite animal with this book.

It would be hard to believe that there is a book out there with more frog information than this. It's fun, informative, with good pictures and info.

Excellent book.

Well, it's a book filled with gorgeous frogs. Can't really go wrong with that. Sleek, smart layout and just enough information to whet the amphibious appetite.

I bought for my frog loving wife. She LOVED it! I mean loved it for sure.

Delivers precisely what it promises - a lot of frogs, with great photos and some interesting essays.

Great references.

This is a whopper of a book, and could be used as a doorstop, it must weigh five or six pounds. It's an impressively printed book. It is not a guide to frogs worldwide, it's more of a sampler. Each page features one species, a brief description, a short paragraph of similar species, a small map and a small grid with essential detail, including geographic range and conservation status (which uses the IUCN status). Each page usually has two photos, one small and one life size (and the smallness of many is amazing, a literal thumbnail size on some). Some of the species are toads, and the author

says here is no meaningful difference between frogs and toads. I don't know how other readers will approach this book. I read it from page 1 all the way through. Some readers might browse through and stop at an interesting looking frog, perhaps because of coloration, or stop at some interesting name. I don't know if I'd call this a coffee table book, it might break the table. It also might make a nice gift for some kids who have a fascination for frogs. It's not a happy frog book, though; many of the species listed are endangered or threatened, and the threats get depressing after a few dozen pages: harvesting for the pet trade, habitat loss due to illegal lumbering, forest clearance for agriculture, pesticide pollution, and particular the fungal disease chytridiomycosis, which is widespread and seems to have wiped out a number of species. A few have been victim of introduced trout that eat tadpoles. Every reader will find tidbits that are interesting. Here are some of mine from this wonderful book:--In 1986 there were 4,015 species of amphibians known to science; in 2015 there were 7,432, with new species discovered rather often.--Not all frogs hop. Some run and some walk (the book, alas, does not describe this. Can you imagine a Mark Twain story, "The Walking Frog of Calaveras County"?)--Not all frog eggs result in tadpoles. Some result in froglets.--A new frog has been described that is also a new genus, officially described in 2013, *Mercurana myristicapalustris*, named for the singer Freddie Mercury (native to India). Long after no one recalls his music, his name will appear with this species, mystifying future students.--Izecksohn's frog (Brazil) is unique, it eats whole fruits (I assume the fruit is small).--The Golden poison frog is, well, golden. There's enough poison in one frog's skin to kill 22,000 mice or 10 people. Which brings up the question, who did the research that says what kills 2,200 lab mice kills one person? Sounds like a natural plot for a comic murder mystery.--The European common frog emits "a loud piercing scream when attacked by a cat" which startles the cat which then drops the frog. I'd drop the frog, too.--The Western leopard toad eats snails, shell and all, (South Africa).--The Roraima bush toad when attacked by a tarantula tucks its legs and head into its body and like a pebble, rolls downslope (Guyana and near).--*Duellmanohyla salavida* is named after a Honduran beer.--The Pepper tree frog got its name because its skin secretion makes people sneeze (Central and South America).--The Tomato frog produces a defensive secretion that glues a snake's jaws together. (Madagascar). Does the frog escape or does it just make the snake more cautious next meal?--Some of the frogs are so ugly they're sort of cute. One is the Purple frog (India). Another is Lapham's warty frog (Tanzania).

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