

## The HERP Project Puppet Presentation Frog and Toad Jokes and Stories

### Characters

Narrator wearing frog hat



Red-eyed Tree Frog Puppet



Toad Puppet



### Other needed materials

Frog call recordings and speakers

**Toad:** Hey \_\_\_\_\_ (Narrator's name), do you know that you have a frog on your head?

**Narrator:** Oh, hi toad, yes, how do you like it?

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** Well, I think it looks pretty silly.

**Narrator:** Since when are frogs and toads so fashion conscious! Do you two have a story to share with everyone?

**Toad:** Of course, Hi everyone, I'm toad.

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** ...and I am Red-eyed Tree Frog. I don't live in North Carolina, it is too cold here for me, burr. I am just visiting from Costa Rica. Would you like to hear a joke? [wait for a response, narrator may need to prompt children to respond]  
Do you know why frogs are so happy?

**Toad:** Ummmmmm...I don't know, why are frogs so happy?

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** Because they eat what bugs them!

**Toad:** Ha Ha, that was a good one. I have one for you. What does a toad say when he sees somethin' that's really great?

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** I don't know, what?

**Toad:** [with enthusiasm in a 'hey dude' type of voice] That's toad-a-lee awesome!

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** Good one, Toad. Enough with the jokes, let's tell the boys and girls a little bit about us.

**Toad:** Sure thing. First things first. I'm a toad but I am also a frog. We all belong in the family group called Anurans. One difference between my friend, frog and me, is that I have shorter back legs and I usually hop. My friend, frog, here, has long legs so he is a great jumper.

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** [model legs] Another difference between us is that frogs usually have smooth moist skin and toads have drier, more warty skin. However, let me set you all straight...**TOADS DO NOT CAUSE WARTS.** Warts are caused by a viral infection. I have a feeling that mothers, fathers and grandparents just tell their kids this so they won't pick up toads.

**Toad:** Bummer.

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** One more difference is that frogs like me often lays eggs in jelly-like masses while toads usually lays eggs in double strings.

**Toad:** That's right. Did you know that each species of frog and toad has a different breeding call. From late winter to late summer you are likely to hear different species of frogs and toads calling. Only males have the vocal mechanisms to call. [play call of American Toad] That is a sound that you might start to hear in February, it is the American Toad. [play call of American Toad again]

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** Here is another call that you might be hearing in January or February. [play call of Spring Peeper]. That is the Spring Peeper. It is often one of the first frogs that we hear in late winter here in the Piedmont. Male frogs have vocal sacs under their chins. These sacs serve as a resonating chamber. The male frogs vocalize by squeezing their lungs with their nostrils and mouth shut. Air flows over their vocal chords and into their vocal sacs blowing it up like a bubble gum balloon.

**Toad:** Hey friends, I bet you can identify this common North Carolina frog. [play call of Bullfrog] Does anyone know what kind of frog that was? [pause] That's right, it is a bullfrog [play call again].

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** Calling amphibians, like frogs and toads, need watery areas to lay their eggs. Some lay their eggs in ponds and lakes, others lay their eggs in temporary pools, like roadside ditches, ruts, or puddles.

These temporary pools are really important breeding grounds for frogs and toads as well as our friends the salamanders, but that's another story.

**Toad:** Well that is about it folks, we hope you have enjoyed learning about anurans.

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** How about another joke?

**Toad:** Okay, let's hear it.

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** What is a frog's favorite music?

**Toad:** I don't know, what is a frog's favorite music?

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** Hip hop! [said with a jive type movement]

**Toad:** Smooth moves! I get to tell the last joke. What did the frog do after it heard a funny joke?

**Red-eyed Tree Frog:** Oh, I know that one, it started to croak up! [drag out the word croak]

[Toad and Frog drop behind curtain, Narrator returns]

**Narrator:** Well, thanks so much Toad and Frog, that was really interesting.

[you may want to substitute other frogs if presenting this skit at other times of the year or in other areas of the state]