


Native Species
American Toad



 *Anaxyrus americanus* Length: 5-9 cm Weight: 21.7g


Parotid Glands

Including the two parotid glands behind their eyes, all of the wart-like bumps on toads are glands. These glands are defensive and secrete toxins to make the toads taste terrible to predators.

Contrary to popular belief, toads aren't covered in warts and they will NOT give you warts either. Warts are caused by human strains of papillomaviruses.

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American Toad

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Quick Facts:

- They live for around 10 years.
- They are good at “recycling” since they eat their peeled dead skin every time they shed.
- American toads lay their eggs in lines of string.
- American toads are nocturnal and trill (which sounds like a chirp) to find a mate.
- Wild animals aren’t pets. Leave them in nature.
- For more herp facts, scan the QR code below.



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Native Species
Eastern Box Turtle



 *Terrapene carolina* Length:12.7-17.7cm Weight:0.5-0.9kg


Hard Shell

Eastern box turtles can fit their whole body inside their shells and have hinge like structures on their plastron (lower shell) that help them close completely.

All turtles have an upper shell called a carapace and a lower shell underneath called a plastron. In many turtles a concave plastron indicates that it is male while a flat one indicates it is female.

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Eastern Box Turtle

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Quick Facts:

- Adult box turtles often live 30 to 40 years or more in the wild and some are believed to have reached 100 years or more.
- Box turtles eat many kinds of plant and animal material including berries, mushrooms, earthworms, slugs, snails, and insects.
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Native Species
Eastern Newt (Eft Stage)



 *Notophthalmus viridescens* Length: 7-12.5cm Weight: 11g


Tetrodotoxin

With its orange aposematic (warning) coloration the juvenile Red Eft stage of the Eastern Newt lets predators know that it can be toxic and should stay off the menu.

Eastern Newts are only orange/red during a migratory juvenile phase in which they need to be adapted to dry conditions to move to other bodies of water.

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Eastern Newt

2023 Series

Quick Facts:

- They can live 12-15 years.
- Males actively court females with tail movements and wiggles, as well as by emitting pheromones.
- They help reduce mosquito populations by feeding on their larvae.
- Adults are greenish in coloration.
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Native Species
Common Garter Snake



Thamnophis sirtalis Length: 55 cm Weight: 150g

Live Birth

Common garter snakes are one of the few species of snake to give live birth. Females usually give birth to 15-40 young which upon being born are left on their own to hunt for food.

Whenever garter snakes feel threatened, they produce a foul smelling musk which they use to defend themselves against predators who are repelled by the odor.

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Common Garter Snake

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Quick Facts:

- Mistakenly called “Garden snake”.
- They have a 10 year lifespan.
- The origin of the name “garter snake” is debated with some people saying it resembled garter belts used to hold up men’s socks and other folks saying it is a misspelling of the word “garten”, the German word for garden.
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Native Species
Gray Treefrog



Dryophytes versicolor Length: 3.2-5.2cm Weight: 7g

Freezing

Just like wood frogs, grey treefrogs have the ability to freeze during the winter in order to survive! They replace water in their organs with the alcohol glycerol which doesn't expand when it freezes.

Grey treefrogs are also great at camouflaging on tree bark and can have variations in their colors ranging from gray to green depending on their environment.

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Gray Treefrog

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Quick Facts:

- They can live 7-9 years in the wild.
- Female gray treefrogs can lay 1000-2000 eggs.
- Males fight for territory in “wrestling battles” that can last 30-90 seconds.
- Gray treefrogs have a yellowish patch on the ventral side of their back legs which might only be visible when jumping or moving.
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Native Species
Rough Green Snake



Opheodrys aestivus Length: 56-84cm Weight: 16-26g

Camouflage

Rough green snakes, sometimes called grass snakes, are hard to spot due to their ability to blend into the surrounding greenery. This camouflage allows them to hide from predators.

Called "rough" because their scales stand out at a slight angle, these snakes are agile and skilled climbers. Rarely on the ground they are usually seen on trees, shrubs, and bushes.

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Rough Green Snake

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Quick Facts:

- Average lifespan of 5-6 years in the wild.
- Their diet consists mainly of insects.
- At night they sleep coiled up in shrubs and vines.
- Rough green snakes are not aggressive.
- They are wonderful swimmers, usually swimming away to safety when threatened near water.
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