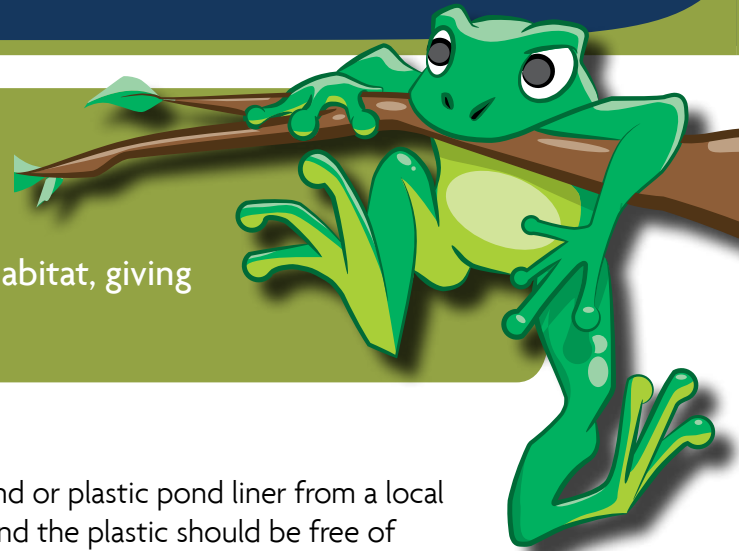


Creating Your Own Frog Habitat

PURPOSE:

1. To raise awareness of about the frogs in your local area.
2. To provide a guide for creating your own frog habitat, giving frogs a place to breed in your garden.



FROG PONDS

A simple frog pond can be constructed using a pre-cast pond or plastic pond liner from a local hardware store. The pond must be placed in partial shade and the plastic should be free of detergents and chemicals, as these will kill the tadpoles. Fill the pond with rainwater (or tap water that has been left in the sun for 5-7 days to remove the chlorine). Add native water plants and rocks or branches that stick out of the water to provide young frogs with a place to rest. The garden around the pond should be leafy with thick, low vegetation. Reeds and sedges, such as Mat Rush (*Lomandra longifolia*), should be planted next to the pond to attract insects that enjoy eating mosquito larvae, such as dragon fly larvae.

If mosquito's become a problem, add native insect eating fish. Native Blue Eye's (*Pseudomugil signifier*) are a good species for controlling mosquito larvae. These are available from most pet stores.

Keep an eye on your pond for toad eggs. These are jet black and laid in long jelly strings up to 10 metres long. Native frog eggs are brownish or grey in colour and are laid in large clumps of foam. If there are no native frogs in your local area you can obtain tadpoles from a frog support group. Other sources of information on frogs include the local National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Queensland Museum.

NOTE: Please check all safety requirements for water depths before building your pond.

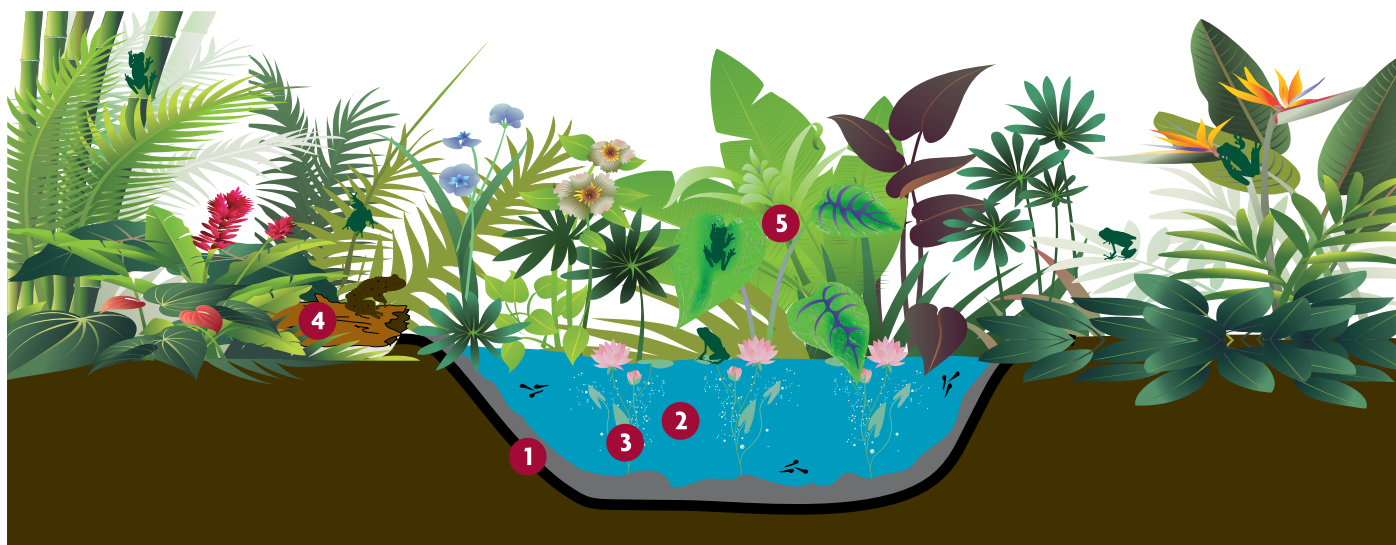


Creating Your Own Frog Habitat

EXAMPLE: A GOOD FROG POND DESIGN

Key to frog pond illustration

1. Concrete, pre-cast fibreglass or strong plastic lining
2. Water depth to be at least 25cm to prevent over-heating (check safety requirements first)
3. Water lilies provide shelter and a place to rest
4. Old logs provide shelter for some frogs
5. Use overhanging, moist vegetation



ACTIVITY

Frog hunt

There is a family of frogs hiding in the frog pond above. See if you can find all six of them, but beware, there is an intruder in the pond. Can you identify who the intruder is?

Reference Books

There are a number of good reference books about frogs and how to identify them. The following is a list of books available at the local library. Your school library may also have a selection of frog books.

A Field Guide to Frogs of Australia – Martyn Robinson

Dinkum Gardening: Creating a Bushland Garden in Brisbane – Tim Low

Australian frogs, Amazing Amphibians – Jill Morris

Frogs and Toads – Bobbie Kalman and Tammy Everts