



Freddie the Fantastic Frog

**Freddie is just fabulous, a handsome brown-green frog.
He sits and suns his slimy skin, upon his favourite log.**

**He croaks his rib-bit harmonies and from across the lawn,
He hears a faint reply... it's the time of year to spawn!**

**Freddie and his mate will meet beside his garden pond,
Nature helps the froggies as they form a special bond.**

**They must go in the water, to lay their many eggs.
Frogs are brilliant swimmers, with webbed feet on long frog-legs!**

**Each and every little egg's a perfect jelly sphere,
With a black dot in the middle - a tadpole grows from here.**

**Soon the eggs will hatch and the tadpoles will swim free.
Now eating plants and insects, growing quickly is the key.**

**A tadpole swiftly starts to sprout his legs and shrink his tail.
His lungs are growing too, once on the land they mustn't fail.**

**Now we call them froglets, they've stubby tails, legs and lungs.
Tails gone, they'll go to land to practise eating with their tongues!**

**Now they are grown frogs, just like their daddy, Freddie.
After many meals of flies and things their croak too, will be ready!**

Tamara Forge

Tamara's Fantastic Frog Facts:

Frogs are from a group of animals called amphibians, which means that once they are adults, they can live both in water and on land.

Frogs need to live near fresh water. They cannot live in salty water like the ocean. Their favourite spots are ponds, marshes, swamps and other damp places.

Instead of drinking, frogs absorb the water through their skin and they can also breathe through their skin. They can breathe through their nostrils too, especially if the rest of their body is under water!

Frogs have a very long sticky tongue, it is attached at the front of their mouths. The muscles in a frog's tongue allow it to grab its food from the air. The tongue coils around its prey before going back into the frog's mouth - dinner is wrapped and served!

Frogs have a varied diet, as tadpoles they eat a mixture of plant matter, algae and small insects. A small frog will enjoy yummy flies, mosquitoes, moths and dragon flies. A large frog can even down the odd cricket, worm or grasshopper - a hearty meal indeed.

There are many different species of frog around the world. Those that live in colder climates usually choose to hibernate in the winter.

Here is an example of the lifecycle of a frog, our Freddie the Frog poem above tells a story of this cycle!

