

By Lisa Maloney, Urban Education Coordinator

FANTASTIC FR GS

Try these fun ideas to get moving and see how YOU compare to a frog!

How long is your tongue?

Stick out your tongue as far as you can. Is it as long as your pointer finger? Your pinky finger? A frog's tongue sticks out much farther!

Here's why: Our tongues are attached in the back of our throats, so we can't stick them out too far. Frogs' tongues are attached to the front of their mouths and hang backwards down their throats. When a frog sticks out its tongue, it flips outward - making it seem very long! Look at the picture of a frog flicking its tongue out to eat.

Do you use your eyes to swallow?

Feel your throat as you swallow. Can you feel something go up and down? That's your esophagus - the tube that leads from your mouth to your stomach. We have muscles there to help our food move to our stomachs. Frogs don't have those muscles! They need something special to help them swallow - their eveballs. They have to blink to swallow!

Here's how we know: Look at the picture of a frog and notice where their eyes are located - their eyeballs are up on top of their heads. Look at the picture of the frog skeleton: can you see two big holes in the skull? When a frog blinks, its eyes move down through those holes into the mouth and help force food into the frog's stomach.

How far can you leap?

Try this: Stand up straight and have a friend measure you from the top of your head to just below your waist. Write that number down. Next: Mark off a starting line, and then leap as far as you can. Have your friend measure from the start to where you landed. Compare that number to the measurement you took. Did you jump twice as far as your body length? Three times as far?

Frogs can leap 10 times their body length!

Here's why: Look at the frog skeleton picture again and compare frog legs to ours. They have more places where they can bend and push off than we do; those are called levers. Count them. You will see they have 8 places where they can bend, compared to only 4 for people (hips, knees, ankles and where the foot meets the toes).



Frog Tongue





Gray Tree Frog



American Bullfrog



Frog Skeleton





