



A Frog that can Quack?! That's Wack!

Yes, there is a frog that sounds very much like a duck quacking, and if you don't believe it listen for yourself! https://umesc.usgs.gov/terrestrial/amphibians/armi/frog_calls/woodfrog.wav

That is the **North American wood frog**, and that's not the only thing that's weird about these wonderful little creatures. They are the only frogs that freeze (mostly) into ice while hiding under leaves in the winter woods, and then thaw out just fine in the spring. There's no making snowmen for these frogs! When they wake up in early spring the snow is mostly gone. If you hear one you know that you are near a special kind of water called a **vernal pool**, where frogs like to have their tadpoles because there are no fish to eat them there (because these pools dry up in the fall). You can usually hear them calling each other as early as March, mostly around dawn and dusk, but I've heard them all times of day.

Here are two audio book links that may help peak your child's interest before going "frogging".

For early learners: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mqLB9pbJprU>

For older elementary aged children, or the "nature curious" young child:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJKNr_PAzfw

If you enjoy the books please consider supporting the author by buying a copy.

Here are some vernal pool locations where you might go out and use your ears:

AVIS **West Parish Meadow** Reservation, parking at West Parish Church Children's Garden
AVIS **Indian Ridge**, Parking along Reservation Road or at the AHS lot (trails behind soccer fields up hill)

AVIS **Peggy Keck** Reservation, parking off Rte. 125, at corner of Gould Rd.

AVIS **Skug River** Reservation, parking on 315 Salem St.

Trustees of Reservations **Ward** Reservation, on the way to Elephant Rock

Conservation Commission's **Doyle Link**, Parking at corner of Cutler and Lowell St., entrance by the yellow house.

And while you're out, listen for the many other interesting frog calls from our many froggie friends. Here is a link to more frog calls:

<https://musicofnature.com/calls-of-frogs-and-toads-of-the-northeast/>

If the frogs are quiet while you're at a pool listening, you can make your own noise by signing along with the ever popular...https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziGG_L9C12o

Once you're home again an extension might be to create some frog footprints to tape to the floor, to leap between and become a hopping frog yourself. Just don't forget to "quack"!!

<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/730874.htm>

Web extensions for older learners:

<https://www.nhpr.org/post/if-it-sounds-duckmight-be-frog#stream/0>

http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Lithobates_sylvaticus/#2690962E-2E95-4DF4-9029-BF05EBBC4E4C

For LLL Preschool, AVIS and The Trustees of Reservations by Cheryl Platt McKeough