

Amphibian Outdoor Activity

Toad Houses

Toads and other amphibians are excellent at controlling bug populations! One toad can eat over 100 insects in one day. Gardeners love having these animals around to eat those pesky bugs.

In this activity, you will use materials you have at home to make your own toad house! Even if you do not garden, encouraging toads and frogs to live in your yard will help control bug populations and provide a fun piece of nature to observe.

Materials:

- Old plastic containers or clay pots
- Non-toxic paint
- A shady spot in your yard (under a shrub or tree) with water nearby
 - If you do not have water in an accessible area, just fill up a small shallow container and place it nearby

Directions:

- Decorate! If you want to paint your toad home, make sure to use non-toxic paint since this will be outside.
- After your house is dry, it's time to place it in your shady spot! Below are a few ways you can place the house.
 - Plastic containers – cut an entry into the side of the container. Place upside down on the soil and weigh down with rock. If the container is big enough, you can push the container down into the soil a few inches to help hold it in place.
 - Clay pots – turn the pot on its side and bury it halfway into the soil. You made a little cave! You can also turn the pot upside down and place on a ring of rocks. Remove one rock to create an entryway for your amphibian friends.
- Now comes the hard part – waiting! Give it some time and your new friend should show up. Spring is a great time to set these up because many of our amphibian friends are on the move and looking for places to eat and sleep.