

9:00 Circle: Read *Toad Overload: A True Tale of Nature Knocked Off Balance in Australia*. An ecology story about the imbalance caused by putting an animal in the environment that isn't a natural part of the ecosystem. 101 giant toads were brought to Australia from South America to eat beetles that were destroying the sugar cane crop. The frogs ended up moving into town to eat bugs under the street lights. Because they squirted poison they had no predators to keep them in balance and they soon took over.

Lesson- **FROG / TOAD SORTING CARDS**

ART: Footprints (When we go into nature, leave only footprints.)

11:45 Circle: Read *The Old Woman Who Loved to Read* (a story with many Australian animals).
Story Time- Read one of the books of poems about earth or summer (see book list).

3:00 Circle: Read *The Story of Rosy Dock*. Rosy dock is a plant that the European settlers brought with them to Australia over 100 years ago. They didn't know it would grow out of control and endanger the native plants and animals because it didn't belong in the Australian ecosystem.

Allowing the child to observe,
to explore and to follow his normal interests
is a form of respect towards the child.

Maria Montessori

Similarities- Frogs and toads are both amphibians.

Frogs

smooth, moist skin
no warts on body
narrower body and waist
live near or in water
longer hind legs for hopping
webbed hind feet for swimming
eggs are in massive lump of cloudy jelly

Differences

Toads

rough, drier skin
have warts on body
broader, flatter body
live on land, breed in water only
shorter hind legs
walks rather than hop
eggs are long and stringy, wrapped around water plants