



WOONY NEWS

August/September 2010

Woonny News is a bi-monthly newsletter produced by the Narragansett Bay Commission. It is geared towards helping students learn about and have a better appreciation for their environment. It includes fun activities, interesting facts, educational stories and more. Students can log onto www.narrabay.com to read Woonny News, or sign up for a mailing list and receive a copy at home, by calling the NBC at 401-461-8848 x351. Students can also email Woonny with their questions at Woonny@narrabay.com.

LIKE TO READ? TRY ONE OF THESE GREAT BOOKS!!

Flotsam

- David Wiesner

Song of the Water Boatman

- Joyce Sidman

Verdi

- Janell Cannon

The Lorax

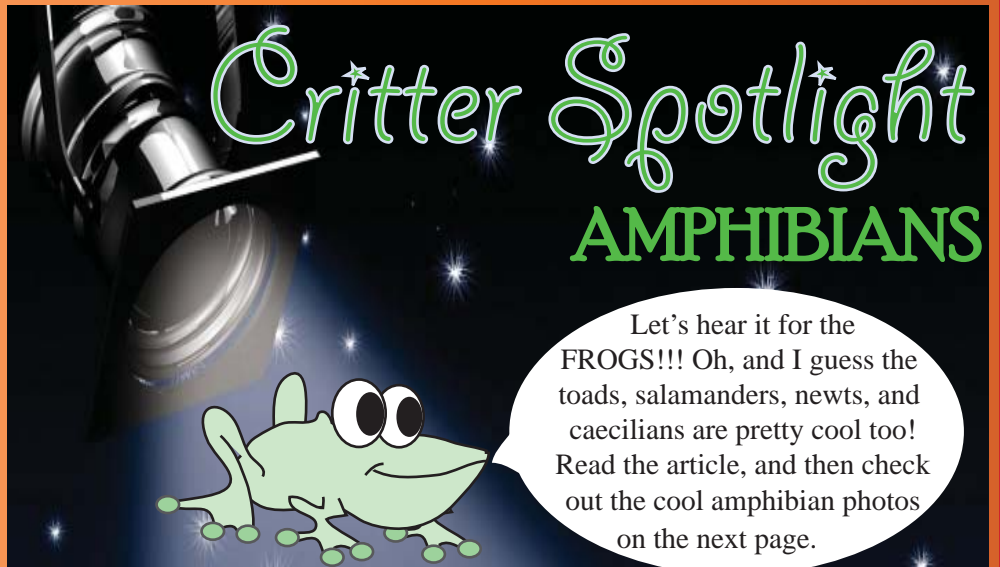
- Dr. Seuss

Water Dance

- Thomas Locker

Amphibian

- Eyewitness Books

Critter Spotlight

AMPHIBIANS

Let's hear it for the FROGS!!! Oh, and I guess the toads, salamanders, newts, and caecilians are pretty cool too! Read the article, and then check out the cool amphibian photos on the next page.

Frogs, toads, salamanders, newts, sirens, and caecilians are amphibians. Amphibians are a special class of critters that all share three very important characteristics. The first is that they all have a backbone. Right away, you may be thinking, "but I have a backbone, and I am not an amphibian!" You would be right, and that is because amphibians need to have the same three very important characteristics in order to be an amphibian. They can't just have one or two of the characteristics, they need to have all three. The next important characteristic is that all amphibians have bare bodies, which means they have no hair, fur, feathers or scales. Mammals have hair or fur, birds have feathers, and reptiles have scales, so even though they all have a backbone, they cannot be amphibians. The last very important characteristic that all amphibians share, is that they can breathe more than one way. Again you might be thinking, "So can I!" The truth is, humans can only breathe using lungs, we may take air in through our nose or mouth, but our lungs do the breathing for us!! Amphibians throughout different times in their life can breathe using gills, lungs, and their skin!

AMPHIBIAN QUIZ

Test your amphibian knowledge

1. You will get warts from touching a toad.
True or False
2. Frogs and toads often shed their skin and eat it.
True or False
3. Some amphibians can puff up, change color, and secrete poison in order to protect themselves.
True or False
4. All amphibians have backbones.
True or False
5. Amphibians can absorb water through their skin.
True or False

Answers: 1 (False), 2 (True), 3 (True), 4 (True), 5 (True)

MEET THE AMPHIBIANS



Wood Frog
Rana sylvatica

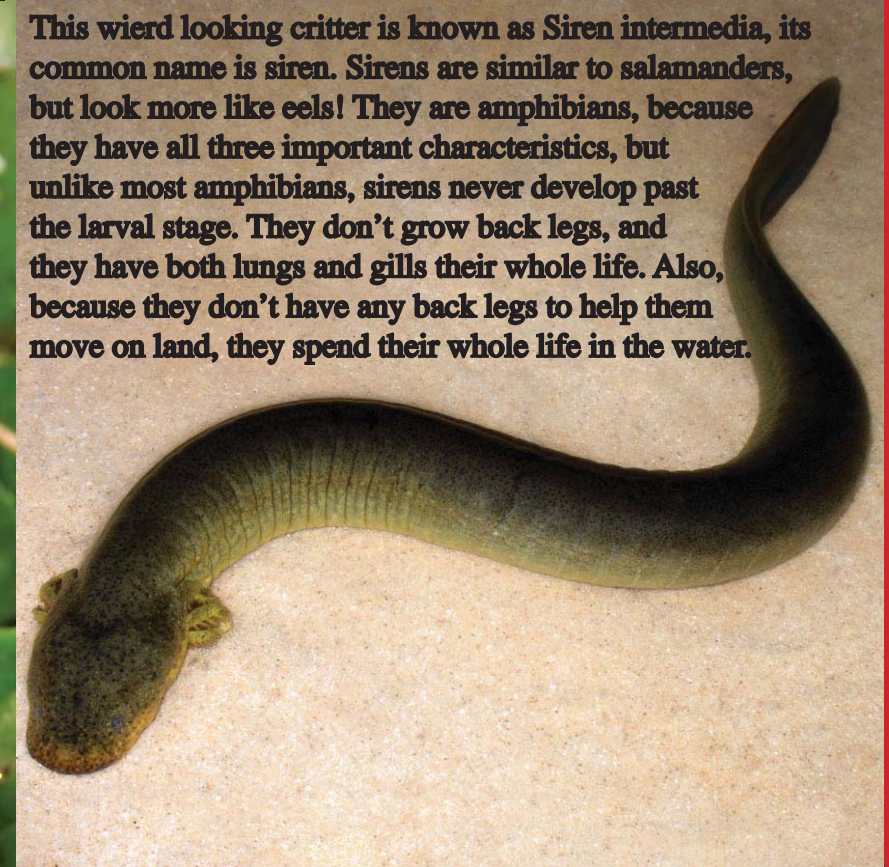


Gabon Caecilian
Geotrypetes Seraphini



Spring Peeper
Hyla crucifer

This wierd looking critter is known as *Siren intermedia*, its common name is siren. Sirens are similar to salamanders, but look more like eels! They are amphibians, because they have all three important characteristics, but unlike most amphibians, sirens never develop past the larval stage. They don't grow back legs, and they have both lungs and gills their whole life. Also, because they don't have any back legs to help them move on land, they spend their whole life in the water.



Spotted Salamander
Ambystoma maculatum



Fowler's Toad
Bufo fowleri