

The Amazon Horned Frog

Written by EL Education for Instructional Purposes

Habitat

Amazon horned frogs live in ponds of the Amazon basin in South America. The Amazon basin contains the Amazon rainforest, which stretches out through many countries in South America, including Colombia, Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador. This means you can find an Amazon horned frog in many places.

Physical Characteristics

Amazon horned frogs are huge. They can weigh up to a pound and grow up to 8 inches long! Female Amazon horned frogs are mostly **tan**. The tan color makes it easier for the females to hide. The male frogs are many different shades of green and look like the leaves in the forest.

Amazon horned frogs have an enormous mouth with very sharp teeth. Amazingly, they swallow what they eat whole, which means they take only one big gulp to eat their prey. Some scientists call the Amazon horned frog the “Pac Man” of frogs.

Amazon horned frogs have small horns above their eyes that help them hide under the leaves on the forest floor. Their horns look just like leaf stems.

Predators and Prey

One other amazing feature of the Amazon horned frog is that they don't care at all about what they eat. They eat almost anything that they can catch in their large mouths. They catch their prey by **ambushing** it. Amazon horned frogs have no known predators, and are truly amazing!

Glossary:

tan—a shade of brown

ambushing—making a surprise attack

Sources:

National Geographic, “Amazon Horned Frog,” © 1996–2012 National Geographic Society; <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/amphibians/amazonhorned-frog/>. Tom Jackson, *Frog: A Photographic Portrait* (New York: DK Publishing, 2010). Nic Bishop, *Frogs* (New York: Scholastic Nonfiction, 2008).