



WEEK 4:
ANIMAL HOMES

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

From the coldest tundra to the hottest desert, animals make their homes in very different places. Whether underwater, underground, high on a mountain or deep in a forest, animals find or make spaces to provide shelter and safety. Some animals, like moles and prairie dogs, dig burrows or tunnels to make their homes underground. Birds and beavers carefully build their homes out of materials they collect in their environment. Other animals, like some spiders and bees, can make their homes using materials they produce from their bodies. Many large animals, like bison and whales, are so big that they don't need to build special homes – their home is wherever they go! No matter where they live, all animals have some sort of place that they can call home.

DAY 5:

A HOUSE FOR TOAD

Frogs and toads are both types of amphibians. Amphibians are a kind of animal that live the first part of their lives in the water, but their bodies grow and change into adults that can live on land. They need a moist or wet environment to survive and can also absorb water and even breathe through their thin skin. Frogs and toads are amphibians that have no tail and short, stubby bodies. Frogs have long back legs with webbed feet for jumping and swimming. They also have smooth, wet skin. Toads are a type of frog that has thick warty skin, smaller legs and no webbed feet. Frogs live in and very close to water because their skin is thin and can dry out quickly. Toads, however, have thicker skin that can better hold moisture. Toads usually burrow in the ground in shady areas during the day to escape the heat instead of staying directly in water. If you live in an area around a stream or pond, you may see toads or frogs in your backyard!

Before you start, you should have:

- A small clay pot or plastic container (the clay pot will stay cooler in the summer)
- Non-toxic, washable paints
- Paint brushes
- A quiet place outside in the shade to put the pot

Get started:

- 1) Paint the outside of the container with your favorite colors and designs.
- 2) Allow the paint to dry before taking the container outside.
- 3) Find a place outside with plenty of shade.
- 4) Place the container on its side on the ground, so that the opening is facing outward and it is easy for a toad to hop into.
- 5) Place some dead leaves and a little bit of soil inside the pot. Now you have a toad house!
- 6) Check on your pot once each day to see if a toad has moved in. After sunrise and sunset are the best times to check! If you see a toad, make observations about what it is doing.
- 7) Try to guess what type of toad it is by going to the following website and looking under the heading "True Toad Family - Bufonidae." <https://gonefroggin.com/2016/09/26/frogs-toads-oklahoma/>



Keep exploring!

- There are some ways you can attract toads to your area:
- Keep a shallow dish of water at ground level for toads to soak in. Make sure you place a stone in the water dish so that the toads can get out.
- Keep a little area of fallen leaves and twigs around your toad house. Toads like to hide under leaf litter.

What did you discover?

Upload a photo or video and tag the Sam Noble Museum on Instagram or Facebook. You can also use the hashtags **#samnoblehome** and **#summerexplorers** to share!

More information on frog and toad habitats

<https://blog.nwf.org/2018/05/five-tips-to-help-frogs-and-toads-in-your-yard/>



<https://savethefrogs.com/>



Sam Noble Home



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