



BAY CRITTERS:

# Let's explore spring peepers.

Watch the [spring peepers video](http://cbf.org/news-media/multimedia/video/cbf-education-videos/spring-peepers-video.html). [cbf.org/news-media/multimedia/video/cbf-education-videos/spring-peepers-video.html](http://cbf.org/news-media/multimedia/video/cbf-education-videos/spring-peepers-video.html) Write a two-sentence description of spring peepers here. Include a picture.

## Essential Questions

1. Where do spring peepers live?

2. What is the life cycle of a spring peeper?

3. What is the difference between a spring peeper and a toad?

## Field Observations and Questions You Have



### DIVE DEEPER:

#### Be the Expert

See second page. Explore the role spring peepers play in the food web. What would happen to the ecosystem if spring peepers disappeared?.

#### Peeper Poetry

See third page. Write a song or verse of poetry inspired by spring peepers.

#### Metamorphosis Match Up

What other creatures besides spring peepers go through a metamorphosis? What are the similarities and differences between those critters and spring peepers?



#### Save our Vernal Pools

See third page. Write a slogan and draw a poster to raise awareness about the importance of vernal pools..

#### Curious Connections

As you were watching the video, did you have questions of your own? Take time to explore and research the topics that sparked your curiosity.

#### Volunteer at a Tree Planting

Communities and farmers are learning the importance of vernal pools and how riparian buffers protect them. The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is partnering with other organizations to plant 10 million trees by 2025 to increase the number of riparian buffers. But we can't do it alone.

Check out [www.tenmilliontrees.org](http://www.tenmilliontrees.org) to find out how you can help. By planting trees along rivers and streams, we can protect water quality as well as the habitat of spring peepers and other interesting critters..

[Keystone 10 Million Trees](http://www.tenmilliontrees.org)

**BE THE EXPERT:**

Spring peepers play a role in the ecosystem and the food web, just like all plants, animals, and insects. What would happen if the vernal pool dried up and the spring peepers disappeared? How would this affect the local food web? What changes would occur if spring peepers disappeared?

Draw a food web that covers all parts of the spring peeper's life cycle and the role they play in the food web.

Food Web with Spring Peepers

Food Web without Spring Peepers

## Peeper Poetry

Write a song or poem about this curious little frog that sings in the spring. Use any poetry style that you like! Limericks, haikus, free verse, and slam poetry are some fun styles to try.

## Advocacy Posters for Vernal Pools

Spring peepers rely on vernal pools to survive and reproduce. Vernal pools are one of the most quickly disappearing ecosystems in the United States. Help protect these important ecosystems by developing a slogan and drawing a poster to raise awareness of vernal pools and spring peepers.



CHESAPEAKE BAY  
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# INVESTIGATION

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