



## ANSWER KEY

### Exercise: 1

**Instructions:** Idaho is home to many amphibians. You can use the key to identify the species listed below. Use the key to compare your species with the choices given and choose the option that best matches the characteristics of your species. It is important that you pay close attention to detail. If you are careful, this should lead you to page where you can name it and tell how it lives.

1. This Species has rough, dry skin.

Common Name- *Woodhouse's Toad*

Scientific Name- *Bufo woodhousei*

Habitat- Grasslands, shrubby areas, woodlands, river valleys

Diet- Adults eat mainly arthropods, larvae eat algae and plant tissue



Photo by Stephan Burton

2. This species has moist skin, an external eardrum, and feet with toe pads and limited webbing.

Common Name- *Pacific Tree Frog*

Scientific Name- *Pseudacris regilla*

Habitat- talus slopes, agricultural areas, deserts, meadows, forested and riparian areas.

Diet- Known to eat beetles, flies, spiders, ants, and isopods. Larvae probably eat algae, organic debris, and plant tissue.



Photo by Michael E. Dorcas

3. This species has moist skin, a wide fifth toe, and no external eardrum.

Common Name- *Tailed Frog*

Scientific Name- *Ascaphus truei*

Habitat- Clear, cold, swift moving mountain streams

Diet- Adults eat on insects and invertebrates, larvae on algae



Photo by Charles R. Peterson

4. They are variably colored, ranging from black, tan or olive ground color and olive, yellow or tan markings.

Common Name- *Tiger Salamander*

Scientific Name- *Ambystoma tigrinum*

Habitat- found in ponds, small lakes or slow moving streams in grassy or sagebrush cover.



Photo by Charles R. Peterson

Diet- Adults eat small animals. Larvae eat aquatic invertebrates and vertebrates.

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5. This species has no toe pads.

Common Name- Bullfrog

Scientific Name- *Rana catesbeiana*

Habitat- Found in lower elevation lakes, rivers, streams, and ponds.

Diet- Adults eat arthropods, larvae plant matter and algae



Photo by Ean Harker

6. Has a yellow patch on the throat.

Common Name- Coeur D'Alene Salamander

Scientific Name- *Plethodon idahoensis*

Habitat- Springs, spray zones, and edges of streams

Diet- Aquatic insects



Photo by Charles R. Peterson

7. Lacks toe pads, strongly webbed feet.

Common Name- Wood Frog

Scientific Name- *Rana sylvatica*

Habitat- Found in various kinds of forest/woodland habitats, including edges of ponds and streams, willow thickets, and grass/willow/aspen associations.

Diet- Adults eat small terrestrial invertebrates, Larvae eat algae, microorganisms



Photo by Larry West

8. Hind foot fourth toe has three segments.

Common Name- Idaho Giant Salamander

Scientific Name- *Dicamptodon aterrimus*

Habitat- Larvae usually inhabit clear, cold streams, but are also found in mountain lakes and ponds. Adults are found under rocks and logs in humid forests, near mountain streams, or on rocky shores of mountain lakes.

Diet- Larvae feed on wide variety of aquatic invertebrates as well as some small vertebrates (e.g., fishes, tadpoles, or other larval salamanders). Adults eat terrestrial invertebrates, small snakes, shrews, mice, and salamanders.



Photo by Charles R. Peterson