

THE WATER- HOLDING FROG



This frog is bloated with all the water it has consumed.

Where does it **LIVE?**

The **water-holding frog** (*Litoria platycephala*) lives in Australia. During the rainy season, the frog absorbs water and in doing so puts on 50 percent of its own body weight! To keep from losing this water during the dry months, it creates an underground home to stay in. Since the mud is still wet from the rainy season, it's able to burrow down more than 3 ft (1 m) beneath the surface. It enters a summer hibernation and can stay underground waiting for the next rainy season. When it senses the water from heavy rains, it wakes up and starts to resurface.

STORING water

The water-holding frog stores water in its bladder and beneath its skin.

“Living **WELL**”

Aborigines used to dig up the frog to extract drinking water. They used the frog as a “living well.” To gain access to the water they squeezed the frog.

FEEDING time

When active above the ground, it lives in water bodies. It feeds on other frogs, tadpoles, and small insects.

EGG laying

A female usually lays more than 500 eggs at one time! She lays her eggs and then goes into a hibernation. She enters this state in order to prevent damage from extreme dryness and heat.



$\frac{2}{3}$ in (6 cm)

Widespread in Australia

Before...



In its normal state, a water-holding frog is just $2\frac{1}{3}$ in (6 cm) in length.

After...



When it has consumed half its own body weight in water, its body is enlarged to $4\frac{1}{2}$ in (12 cm) in length.



When active, it lives in puddles, pools, and streams.

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