



Transparent Wonder

Deep in the rainforest of South America is the most amazing frog. The glass frog is resting on a leaf. It is almost invisible to any person looking at the leaf. That's because the glass frog is almost completely transparent. When the sun shines on a leaf, the leaf glows in the sun. And so does the glass frog! It almost disappears into the leaf!

The Glass Frog's Body

Glass frogs have clear see-through skin. If you turn them over, you can see their insides! You can see their hearts and their stomachs. You can even see their blood and bones! No one really knows why the glass frog is transparent. It makes the frog very hard to see when it is sitting on a green leaf. Glass frogs are always some shade of green on the top of their body. They often have gold colored eyes. They have excellent vision and can see things from very far away. Many of them are very small, even as small as an almond!

The Glass Frog's Habitat

Glass frogs live in the rainforest in countries like Costa Rica. Most all glass frogs live in the trees. Glass frogs need to live in warm, moist places, such as the rainforest canopy, and have a steady stream of water near them. They can jump from a plant to the rock and then by the water.

Glass Frog's Predators and Prey

Glass frogs like to eat what many frogs eat. They like to eat insects, flies, and tiny spiders. Their predators have a very hard time seeing them because of their color. That helps them survive. Their predators are the same as many other frogs: birds and snakes.

Staying Safe

The glass frog's transparent color is an amazing adaptation that helps them to stay safe. It helps them stay almost invisible to anything that would want to eat them. It also helps them catch the small insects they eat. Glass frogs also stay safe because they sleep during the day when their predators are most active. They come out at night when they are even harder to see. The glass frog also does something amazing to help keep its eggs safe. They lay their eggs on the underside of a leaf, so the eggs can't be seen. The leaf is above a stream, so when the eggs hatch, the tadpoles drop right into the water!

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Written by Expeditionary Learning for Instructional Purposes

Sources:

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