

Be an Origami Naturalist: Green Frog

Ages: 6 and up

Duration: 15–30 minutes

Materials needed: One sheet of paper, 4 to 8 inches square; drawing materials.

Introduction: The summertime Hudson Valley is full of life. If you can't get out into nature and explore in person (or even if you can), why not learn about a local creature by making one of your very own? With some plain paper, and crayons or pencils, you can use the art of origami to make your own beautiful animal.

For this activity, you'll be making a hopping frog. By coloring and adding the right features, you can turn it into a green frog (*Lithobates clamitans*), a common Hudson Valley native. Follow the illustrated instructions on the following page, or visit hrm.org/science-projects for a step-by-step video.

Green Frog (*Lithobates clamitans*): The green frog is a common, long-legged, highly aquatic frog that is found in ponds, marshes, lake fringes, and sometimes along stream sides. It is usually green, bronze, or a combination of the two colors, and adults average 3 to 4 inches long. These frogs have prominent ridges on their sides, and often have spots on their hind legs that align to form stripes when the legs are folded. A male green frog's call sounds like plucking a loose banjo string. When distressed, this frog emits a loud squeak as it leaps from danger.

Text adapted from "Frogs and Toads of New York State" by Alvin R. Breisch and James P. Gibbs in The New York State Conservationist, April 2002.

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Green Frog (*Lithobates clamitans*)

