

Lithobates catesbeianus/
Rana catesbeiana

American Bullfrog

Ranidae, the true frog family



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Largest frog species in North America; adults reach 3.5 to 7 inches long
- Have three life stages: egg, larva (tadpole), adult
- Egg mass is anchored in aquatic vegetation and floats; has appearance of clear gelatin-covered poppy seeds
- Adults are dull green or olive-brown in color with dark blotches on back and legs; underside is cream to yellow colored

Background

- Native to central and eastern U.S., extending into Canada and Mexico
- Inhabits lakes, reservoirs, rivers, ponds, canals, and wetland areas
- Tadpoles feed on aquatic plants, suspended matter, organic debris, plant tissue, and small aquatic invertebrates
- Adults are carnivores and will eat any animal that can be swallowed
- A very aggressive competitor and predator; will displace a wide variety of organism and native amphibian populations

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