

Summary of an Article

Read the following article. After reading, write a summary of what you have read. In your summary, try to:

- say the main ideas of the article;
- identify the most important details;
- use your own words in writing the summary; and
- use correct grammar, spelling, punctuation, and capitalization.

Frog or Toad

Some frogs and toads look very much alike. They are cousins in the animal family, but frogs and toads are not the same. Frogs have round bodies, big heads, and no necks. Their eyes stick out from the tops of their heads. They also have big mouths and sticky tongues. Many types of frogs have teeth on their upper jaws.

Frog skin is smooth. It also feels wet, as if the frog has just stepped out of a shower. So about every ten days, when their skin becomes too tight, frogs shed. They have brand new skin underneath. Frogs have short front legs and long back legs. Their back legs are also very strong. This allows them to move quickly by jumping long distances. Most types of frogs need to live close to water. Their bodies are made for living in water. During the day, you might find some frogs sitting near water. They never go very far away from it, though.

Toads have stout bodies, big heads, and no necks. Their eyes sit on top of their heads, and they also have big mouths and sticky tongues. Toads do not have teeth. Toads have skin that is bumpy and rough. It feels very dry. Toads also take off their own skin. However, they need new skin every three or four days.

Toads have short back legs. They take short hops to get from one place to another. Their back legs are for hopping instead of for jumping. It takes them quite awhile to get to where they want to be. Most toads live on land. Some live many miles away from water. Others go into the water only to lay their eggs. Toads often hide during the day. They like to come out after dark, and then go back to their hiding places in the daytime. Frogs and toads may look the same, but they are different in many ways. No matter which you see, both frogs and toads are fun to watch.

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Beavers

Beavers can be found all over the United States and Canada. They live in areas with both forests and water. They are excellent builders and make their home out of mud and sticks. Part of their home, called a lodge, is above water. The other part of their home is underwater. The beaver makes a tunnel underwater that goes into its lodge. This gives the beaver a safe way into its home where other animals cannot go.

The beaver's body must be strong to allow it to work hard. It must be a strong swimmer to be able to protect itself. It must be able to keep itself warm to live in the water even in very cold weather. The beaver must have strong teeth and jaws to eat and build with wood.

A beaver is a large animal with beautiful fur. It weighs from 35 to 60 pounds. The beaver's body is covered with two layers of brown fur. The inside layer is short, thick fur. The outside layer is long, shiny hair. A beaver's body makes oil that causes its fur to be waterproof. This keeps its body dry. It combs this oil through its fur with its long claws.

A beaver can be recognized by its tail. It has a wide tail that looks like the rubber bottom of a sneaker. This tail steers the beaver through the water. It balances the beaver as the animal moves a heavy log. It is also used to make a warning sound if the beaver senses danger. The animal slaps the tail quickly against the water to tell other beavers to dive for safety.

A beaver has very special teeth. They are covered with a strong orange coating. They have to be strong so the animal can cut through wood for food and building. As a beaver chews on the wood, the teeth wear down. However, a beaver's teeth continue to grow, just like our fingernails.

The beaver has two kinds of paws. The front paws are like small hands. The back paws are webbed like a duck's feet. These webbed paws make the beaver a fast swimmer. The beaver is not very fast on land because its webbed feet make it clumsy. Therefore, a beaver must sniff the air and listen carefully to keep itself safe when on land.

Beavers are very amazing, hard-working animals. They are interesting to learn about and watch.