

## Nature Adventures Module: American Toads

(Highlighted words are found in the Glossary List)

Todd: Terri, were you feeding the toads bubble gum again?

Terri: Very funny, Todd!

Todd: No this little guy isn't blowing bubbles, he's singing! The big sack under the neck is called a **dewlap**. The dewlap looks like bubble gum. The toad uses its dewlap when it wants to sing a song. It sings its songs in the spring.

Terri: American toads are most often seen and heard in the spring when they are breeding. Male toads find pools of water and begin calling females. To do this, the male will stretch out his dewlap to create his unique song. The American toad call is a long, pleasant trill that many people mistake for crickets. Remember, crickets sing in the fall, toads in the spring!

Todd: Although these toads are fairly small, they can eat about 86 flies in 10 minutes! American toads use their tongue to catch flies and spiders to eat.

Terri: American toads are also seen frequently in the fall when they look for new places to live and **hibernate**. Once it finds a suitable location to hibernate, the toad digs a hole three feet into the ground. It sleeps all winter in this hole.

Todd: It's amazing that toads can live underground all winter, and wake up and sing their song in the spring!

Source:

[http://www.facts4me.com/disp\\_subject.php?s\\_id=561](http://www.facts4me.com/disp_subject.php?s_id=561)

[http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/american\\_toad.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/islandcreekes/ecology/american_toad.htm)