Make your own frog and toad hall

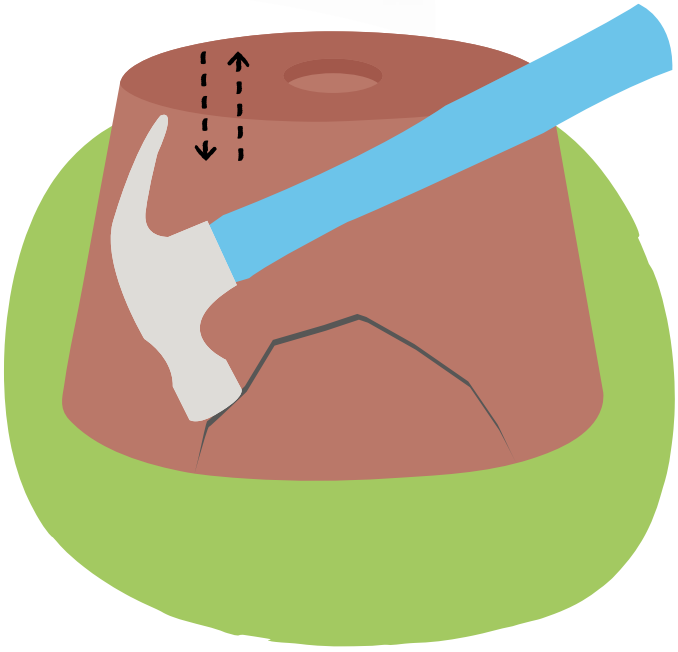
Did you know that frogs and toads are a gardener's best friend? They eat slugs, snails and other creatures that like to feast on your plants. They're also the most amazing creatures to watch. So why not make your very own frog and toad house to encourage them into your garden or school grounds?

During the hottest parts of the day, frogs and toads will be looking for a cool, shady place where they can rest without drying out. An old flower pot makes an excellent place for this, as well as giving them somewhere to go to escape things that want to eat them.

You will need:

- A terracotta flower pot
- Hammer
- Sandpaper or metal file
- Eye protection
- Ruler or tape measure
- Paint and brushes or felt tip pens
- Drill (optional)
- Glue gun (optional)
- Moist, rotting leaves (optional)

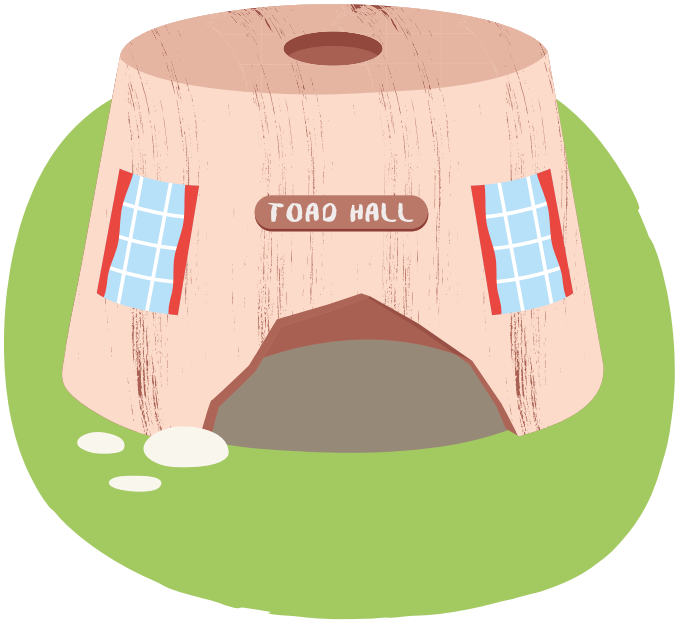
What to do:



1. Your main job is to make an entrance for the frogs and toads to get in and out of the flower pot. Make an entrance at the front and one at the back to allow the creatures to escape if they feel threatened. These entrances should be at least 10cm (4in) wide and 7cm (3in) high - toads in particular can grow quite big!

   We recommend you wear eye protection when making the entrances. If you have a drill, drill a series of holes in a semicircle from the lip of the pot then tap out the piece with a hammer.

   Alternatively you can simply use the hammer and chip out a doorway but this is likely to give a more irregular shape. If you have produced any particularly sharp bits, file these down with sandpaper or a metal file. Ask an adult to help you with this part.



2. Now for the fun part! Decorate your frog and toad house in any way you wish.

   Imagine you were a frog or a toad. How would you want your new home to look? You might want to make it camouflaged to blend in with the environment. You might want to stick on natural decorations such as shells or stones.

   You might want to paint on some pictures that the creatures will love - It's really up to you. Let your imagination run wild!

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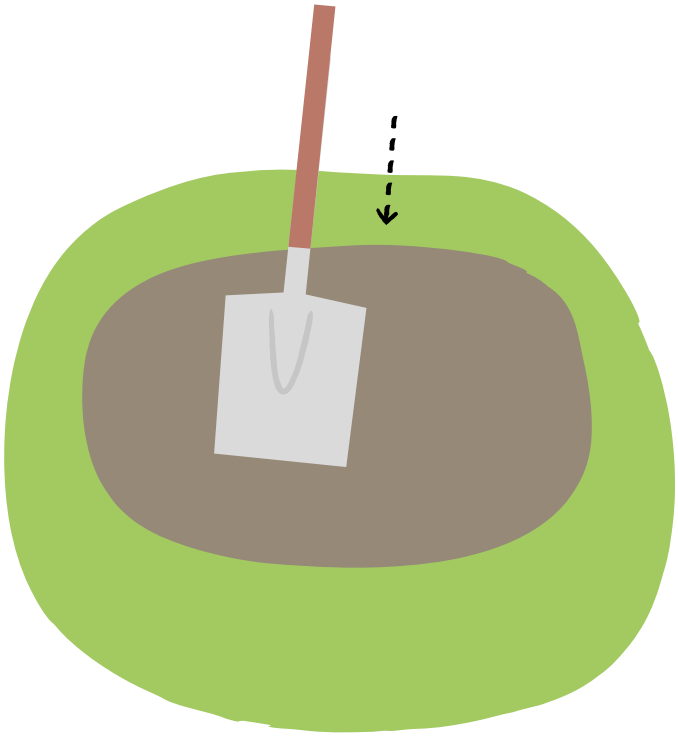

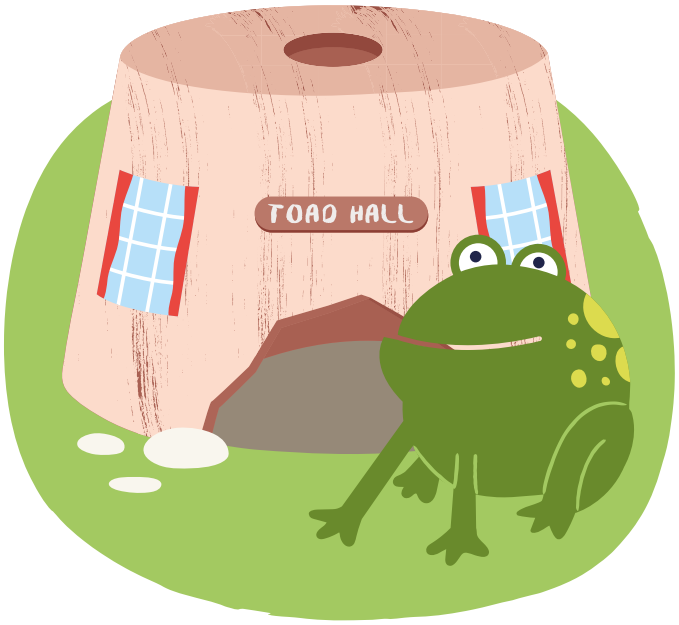

3 Find a shady area, close to a pond if you have one (don't worry if you don't, frogs and toads may still visit).

Dig a very shallow hole just wider than the rim of the pot. Add some moist rotting leaves if you have them.

4 Place your pot upside down over the hole.

5 Sit back and wait for the frogs and toads to use it.

Can you spot them?

You might also want to make a mini pond for your new friends.

Connecting with nature

- How did making your frog and toad house make you feel? Why?
- How do you think a frog or toad will feel when they find the home you have made for them? What do you think they will like best about it?
- Why not draw a picture of the frogs and toads in the house you made?

Share the fun

We'd love to see your frog and toad hall and hear whether it has encouraged frogs and toads into your garden or school grounds. You could also share your photos with family and friends. Let's get everyone building homes for nature!

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