

Sonoran Desert Toad Spring

The Sonoran Desert toad is found across a large portion of southern-central Arizona and portions of New Mexico. Most commonly seen after summer monsoon storms, they can be easy to spot as they are the largest of the toad varieties found in the Sonoran Desert. Just be careful to not let this hoppy amphibian get near your pets, as the toxins they emit can be seriously harmful to them. Just like frogs, toads develop from tadpoles and eventually metamorphize in to their four-legged state. The Sonoran Desert toad's favorite place to sit is in muddy holes and puddles, so that they can blend in to hide from predators. Let's see if we can copy them and do the Sonoran Desert Toad Spring.



Materials

- Something to represent puddles. You can use chalk on pavement, pieces of paper taped to the ground, rugs, hula hoops, or mats. Get creative!
- Shoes if playing this activity outdoors.

Instructions

1. Draw or lay out a number of “puddles” in a scattered pattern, at least ten.
2. Draw or place one end space at the far end of your pattern.
3. Starting at the front of your puddles, spring (hop) like a toad from puddle to puddle to the finish line.
4. Once you have hit the finish line, spring back to the start going from puddle to puddle trying to avoid the puddles that you used on your initial trip.

Take it Further

- Create a lot of puddles, and make a game of toad tag, hopping from space to space.
- Add a tadpole slide. Do a belly crawl between the circles and then hop back once you reach the end.
- Time yourself, try to beat your time.