



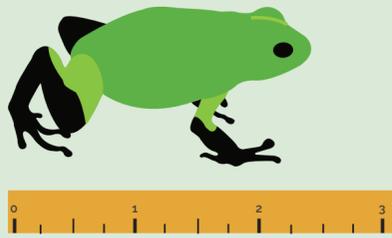
# POISON DART FROGS



FAMILY: Dendrobatidae | TYPE: Amphibian | LIFESPAN: 3 – 15 YEARS

## PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

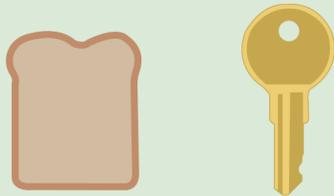
### LENGTH



Average length: .75 – 2.4 inches

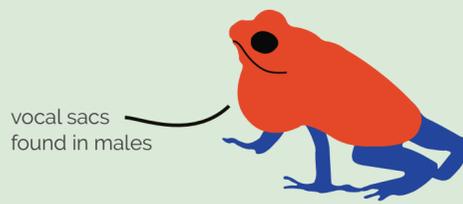
### WEIGHT

Average weight: 1 ounce



• Similar weight to 1 slice of bread or 1 key

### VOCAL CORDS



- Most common form of communication
- Sounds used to attract mates and express distress
- Species of frogs can identified based on their calls

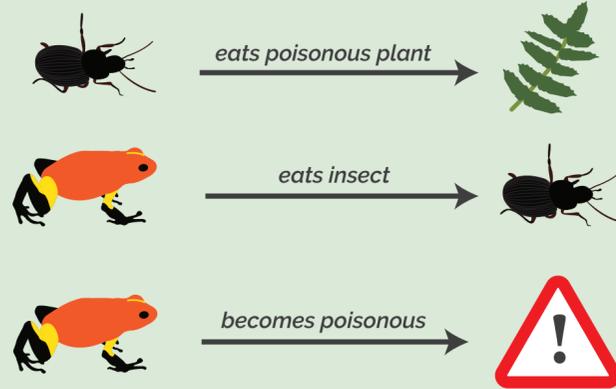
### RETRACTABLE TONGUES

• Sticky tongues used to capture prey



## TOXICITY & POISON

- They are one of the most toxic animals on earth
- The poison is called **batrachotoxin**
- It causes paralysis and death when it enters the bloodstream, even in small amounts
- It is thought that the poisonous toxins come from the insects they eat.
- The insects feed on plants that contain the poison, and this is eventually passed along into the frogs.

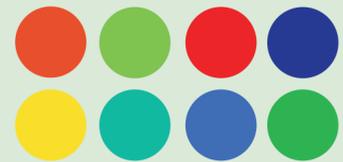


### PREDATORS



- Don't have many predators due to the high levels of toxins they secrete
- They only have one predator: **the fire-bellied snake**
- This snake immune to the toxins found in the frogs
- Found in the **Amazon Rainforest**

### COLOR



- Bright and vibrant colors and patterns such as dots and stripes are used to ward off predators
- Toxic skin secretions are visual warnings
- Called **aposematic coloration**

### POISON STRENGTH



- 1 golden poison dart frog has enough poison to kill **20,000 mice**
- 1 golden poison dart frog has enough poison to kill **10 grown men**

## MATING & REPRODUCTION

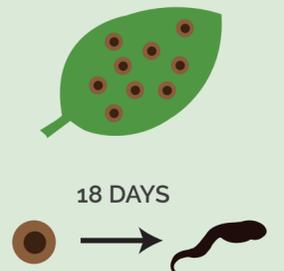
### MATING

- They breed throughout the year because rainfall is the main factor that controls the timing of reproductive activity
- Male chooses the site

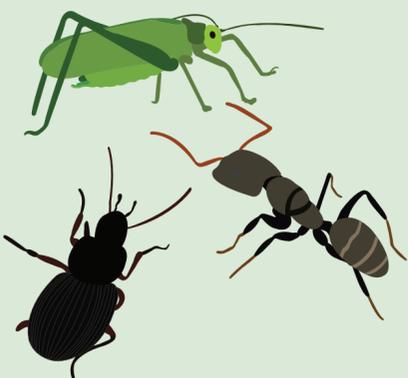


### REPRODUCTION

- The female lays the eggs on a leaf in a dark and moist area for the male to fertilize
- Usually 1 – 40 eggs per clutch
- After about 18 days, depending on the species and temperature, the eggs will mature to tadpoles



## FOOD & EATING

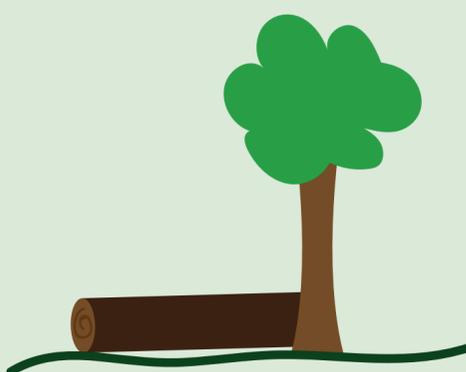


- Feed mostly on small insects such as ants, beetles, crickets, flies, and termites.

## HABITAT



- Live in tropical rainforests in **Central and South America**



- Live in trees and underneath logs, near marshes, streams, and rivers
- Most of the bugs and insects they eat are found on the ground

### PARENTING BEHAVIOR

- Unusual habits
- Carry tadpoles on their backs
- Called "backpacking"

