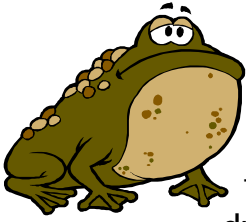


# For Kids

Toads are an interesting beneficial creature, they eat insects and garden pests, and in China they see "TOAD" in the moon, not "MAN" in the moon. They say eclipses happen when the toad tries to swallow the moon.



Toads are brown in color and have dry, bumpy skin. They have short legs that are good for hopping, but they mostly walk. Toads live almost anywhere that is shady and has dirt. They live in backyards and gardens. They feed on ants, worms, beetles, spiders, snails, and woodlice. In one summer, a toad can eat about 10,000 insects.

No, you can not get warts from a toad. The bumps toads have look like warts but they are not warts. However, the large bumps behind their neck on their back contain a poison. It tastes bad and will irritate the mouth of any predator who tries to eat the toad. Therefore, be careful when handling toads and always wash your hands!

**Invite a toad to live in your yard** by creating a Toad House. If you have a shady area with some bushes, plenty of insects, some cool, damp dirt to hide in, you have the perfect place for a toad.

## Materials for the Toad House:

Medium-sized clay flowerpot, acrylic paints, paint brush, and a trowel or large spoon.



## Directions:

1. Decorate the flower pot with paint. Clean the brush between colors. To make light colors mix white with the color. Let the colors dry.
2. Paint designs or flowers or whatever you think a toad would like on top of the color areas.
3. Find a good, shady hiding place outside. Under a bush is a good spot. Bury the pot on its side halfway in dirt.
4. Make sure the dirt inside the pot is a little wet and crumbly. Put a few dead leaves and twigs inside too. You'll know when a toad moves in by the way the dirt at the front of the house gets worn down—that's when the toad sits and waits for its dinner to pass by.