

NONFICTION TEXT FEATURES

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Southern Leopard Frog
(*Rana sphenocephala*)

Did you know?

A genetic mutation gives rise to the Burns leopard frogs, which have no spots.

Leopard frogs, also called **meadow frogs**, are the archetypal "grass frogs" of North America, a collection of about 14 species within the true frog genus *Rana*. They are generally very similar, green with prominent black spotting (though actually more like that of a cheetah than that of a leopard). They can be told apart by their distribution and certain rather subtle ecological, behavioral, morphological and **genetic** traits. Their range extends throughout temperate and **subtropical** North America to northern Mexico, with some species found even further south. Once abundant in North America, their population has declined in recent years because of pollution and **deforestation**.

North America



Deforestation: the removal of a forest.

Genetic: the genetic makeup of an organism or group of organisms

Subtropical: located between tropics and temperate areas.

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