

AB- P2C

The Pond



The pond had a lot of Toads.



I saw a black Toad. The toad crawled on my stick and I put it into the grass. It was all muddy. It had bumps on its back.



It was looking after its eggs in the water.



I saw 4 toads and 1 frog that were fighting in the water.

In the water there was a tyre and other rubbish that blocked their eggs.

My gran and me are going to clean up the pond so the frogs and toads eggs can hatch and grow and grow and turn into toads and frogs.



I found a brown newt in the grass.



The newt was fragile I put it in my hand.

# Poison-dart frogs and mantellas



**DANDY FROG**  
This exquisitely dressed frog, looking just like a poison-dart frog in his clothes of many colours, is all puffed up and in his Sunday best.

MANY AMPHIBIANS ARE BRIGHTLY COLOURED, but the most colourful of all are the poison-dart frogs from Central and South America and mantellas from Madagascar. These frogs use their bright colours to defend their territories from other males during courtship, as well as to warn predators that they are poisonous to eat. They have had to evolve more highly poisonous chemicals in their skin as their enemies, including snakes and spiders, are very resistant to milder skin toxins.



Red flash colour helps camouflage frog

Bright colour helps to warn off predators



This yellow mantella may be a colour variety of the green and black mantella (below), or a different species



This bright mantella has a red "flash" colour on the inside of its leg



**STRANGE NAME**  
This species was originally given its common name because of its typical strawberry-red colour, made even brighter by deep blue-black flecks. Strawberry poison-dart frogs from different areas may have very different colours – blue, green, yellow, orange, plain, spotted, and even black and white.



Identifying mantellas is very difficult – they have so many colour varieties (above)

**WAR PAINT**  
Some native peoples of North America used war paint to strike terror into the hearts of their enemies. This Hopi Indian chief wears orange, red, and yellow – the classic warning colours – in his headdress. Amphibians also use the same colours to frighten away their enemies.



Skin is highly toxic



**GOLDEN LOOK-ALIKE**  
This golden yellow poison-dart frog looks very like its close relative – the more poisonous *Phylllobates terribilis* (pp. 60–61) – but it is smaller and has black markings on its legs.



It has recently been discovered that the golden mantella from Madagascar produces the same kind of chemical poisons as South American poison-dart frogs

I looked in my book and took a photo of some poisonous frogs. They are brightly coloured. They are coloured to warn other animals not to eat them and to warn people on the street not to eat them too.