

# AQUARIUM RECIPE CARD

**Project  
Level: Easy**

## Materials

- Container: 10 Gallon glass aquarium starter Kit which will contain light fixtures, water pump, net, food, filter, etc
- Mesh Screen lid
- RO Water (Reverse Osmosis Water) or Water conditioner to treat tap water
- Aquarium Thermometer
- Turtle dock
- 2 -5lb packages of aquarium rock or gravel
- Elodea
- 6 guppies (male and female)
- 3-6 bullfrog tadpoles

## Food

### In Gill Stage

- Elodea plant
- Timothy hay pellets (guinea pig pellet food)

### In Lung Stage

- Guppy fry
- Pinhead crickets
- Small crickets
- Blood worms

## Recommended Temperature:

Bullfrog tadpoles can handle temperatures as cold as 55°F (12° C), after metamorphosis, the bullfrog prefers temperatures ranging from 72-78° F (22-25°C). However, guppies are tropical and prefer warmer temperatures in the 70's. Use an aquarium heater to maintain these temperatures during the winter.



## BULLFROG TADPOLE HABITAT

**Set up :** Rinse gravel thoroughly and carefully place at the bottom of the tank. Plant sprigs of Elodea into the gravel. Fill tank half way with RO or water conditioner treated tap water (RO is best for amphibians.) Put together turtle dock and using the suction cups attach it to the side of the tank. This will allow the tadpoles to climb onto land when they become air breathers. The dock will adjust to the water level of the tank. Place the underwater pump into the tank to move and aerate water. Add 1/4 more water to the tank. Allow the bagged tadpoles and fish some time to acclimate to the temperature of the aquarium water. After about 30 minutes , release the fish and tadpoles into the tank. Place screen lid on the tank as well as the lid and light fixture. The light fixture will provide light for the plants to grow.

**Maintenance:** Bullfrog tadpoles take anywhere from a year to two years to complete metamorphosis. If doing a long term observation of the tadpole to see the metamorphosis, you may have to place a filter on the aquarium to keep water clean. You will also need to clean the gravel once a semester. To clean the gravel, scoop out some of the existing aquarium water into a clean container free of soap residue. Using a fish net, fish out animals and plants and keep in the container during cleaning. Syphon or scoop out water. Scoop out gravel into a bucket or tub and rinse out in the sink. Rinse aquarium, do not use soap. Algae can be removed with a new sponge. Place gravel back into the aquarium, follow the set up instructions. Monitor temperatures between the aquarium and the container to make sure that animals do not go into shock when placed back into the aquarium.

**Care:** Tadpoles go from gill breathing to lung breathing and during these stages go from being an herbivore as a fish to a carnivore as a lung breather. It is important to monitor their behavior as it will determine what type of food it may be eating. As the tadpoles change their mouth size will change. Baby guppies or bloodworms will be small enough to feed them. As the tadpoles gain legs they will spend more and more time out of the water. It is important to place a dock or rock outside of the water for them to climb up upon. Once they drop their tails, it is better to place the small bullfrogs into a terrarium that has a pool of water for them to swim in because they will need to be on land as well as water. By this stage they will be ready for crickets and other small insects. The size of a frog's mouth determines the size of its food. Do not place small frogs with large frogs because they are cannibalistic. As the frog becomes bigger it will need a deeper pool as frogs spend half their time in water.