

# Toad Abode



## Engage and Reflect

Watch *Virtual Vitamin Z - Discover More About Puerto Rican Crested Toads*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Wg3Vui4DQQ>



## Skills

- Creativity
- Engineering
- Measuring
- Fine Motor



## Visual Arts

- Apply skills and knowledge to create in the arts.

## NGSS Science and Engineering Practices

- Engineering design



## Experience

- 15-20 minutes
- 1 or more people

Learn more about the critically endangered Puerto Rican crested toads. See how animal care staff help breed tadpoles for release in their native habitats. Then learn how to help care for toads who may be found in your backyard like the American toad, by building them homes out of recycled materials.



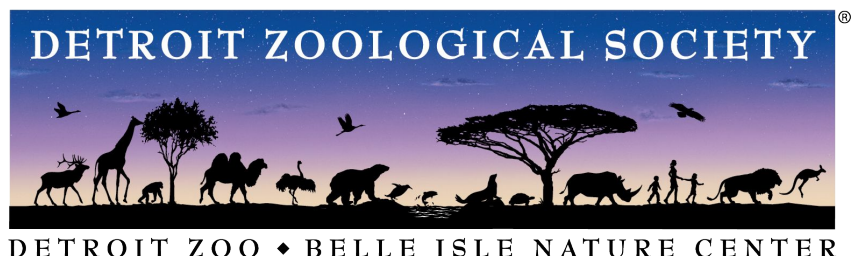
## Celebrating and Saving Wildlife

The Detroit Zoological Society is part of many Species Survival Plan (SSP) programs with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums. SSP programs coordinate the management and conservation of species in zoos and aquariums, ensuring the sustainability of a healthy, genetically diverse populations. Since 1995, animal care staff at the National Amphibian Conservation Center at the Detroit Zoo have successfully bred and released thousands of Puerto Rican crested toad tadpoles throughout different sites in Puerto Rico.

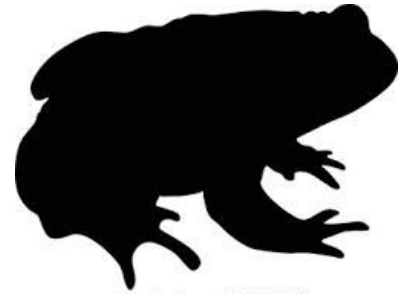


## Take Action

Our backyards are home to a wide variety of wildlife, including toads. You can build homes for animals, like toads living in your backyard, by reusing recycled and natural materials. Adding a toad house to your yard or garden is a great way to entice insect-eating toads to the area.



# Toad Abode



## Tools

Chipped or old planting pot

Hammer and nail

Natural materials like rocks and sticks

Glue gun and glue sticks

Acrylic paint and paintbrushes

*1 or more people*

## Directions

- Use an old or chipped planting pot to create a home for a toad.
- If the pot is already chipped, measure to ensure the hole is at least three inches wide.
- If it is smaller, or there aren't any chips, use a hammer and nail to carefully create a three inch chip on the top edge of the pot.
- Flip the pot over, so the bottom of the pot is the roof of your toad abode.
- Optional:
  - Decorate the pot with your choice of materials. Make sure to use acrylic paint so it will withstand rain.
  - Use natural materials like sticks, moss and rocks to decorate your toad abode. Use a glue gun to securely attach materials.
- Place your toad abode in a shady place.

Notes - When using tools and hot glue guns, make sure to have adult help and supervision.

Choose materials that are natural and/or safe for toads.

Other options for containers include large plastic containers like gallon-sized milk containers. Use a pair of scissors to cut out the bottom half and to create a small opening. Flip the carton over and place a rock on top to keep the container in place.

