

Episode Forty Eight: Red-Eyed Tree Frog | Week of April 4th

[LILLY BY [BOQEH](#) PLAYS THROUGHOUT]

KIM

Hiya! It's April 4th, 2022, I'm Kim, and the frog of the- [CLEARS THROAT] excuse me- the frog of the week is the Red-Eyed Tree Frog.

This frog is native to Mexico and Central America with some populations being reported as far south as Columbia. It lives in the canopies of trees in humid lowland forests.

You've probably seen photos of the Red-Eyed Tree Frog before, as it's something of a celebrity in the frog world. It's usually a vibrant green in color with a white belly, bluish markings on its sides and legs, and orange feet. And, of course, its most distinctive feature is its bright red eyes.

As we discussed last month, bright colors often indicate that a frog is poisonous. But that is not the case with the Red-Eyed Tree Frog. Most of the time, its coloring acts as camouflage. The frog will lay on a leaf with its feet tucked in and eyes closed, leaving only its green back exposed.

It is unclear what purpose the red eyes serve, but some scientists believe they are another defense mechanism. If a predator gets too close for comfort, the frog can open its big red peepers, give the predator a fright, and make its escape. This defense mechanism is known as startle coloring.

During mating season, male Red-Eyed Tree Frogs will ascend to a high branch to call to potential mates.

[RED-EYED TREE FROG CALL PLAYS]

KIM

Males will also shake the tree branch they're perched on to ward off potential competitors. They do so by, for lack of a better description, shaking their little butts. If two males try to stake out the same territory, they may even engage in a twerking competition.

I like this frog because I think the dance-off is an underutilized method of conflict resolution. I wish more disagreements could be solved with a little booty-shaking.

And that's the frog of the week. Thank you to Oliver, Hayden, and Froggy for recommending the Red-Eyed Tree Frog. This week marks the one year anniversary of the first episode of Frog of the Week. We'd like to thank all of our listeners for joining us for twelve months of fantastic frogs. Go to frogpod.online for more info or check out our Twitter [@WeeklyFrogPod](#).

Thanks for joining us. See you next week.

[LILLY BY [BOQEH](#) FADES OUT]