

ARIZONA EDVENTURES

Colorado River Toad



The **Colorado River Toad**, *Bufo alvarius*, is also called the **Sonoran Desert Toad**. This toad is found in the region of northern Mexico and southern Arizona (see map above). It is the largest native toad in the United States at four to seven inches long. The Colorado River Toad lives in both desert and semi-arid habitats near streams, springs, pools, canals and drainage ditches. It is most active in periods of seasonal rainfall from May to July. The toad makes its home in a rodent hole or a burrow that it digs. It is nocturnal and carnivorous. Like many toads, it has a long sticky tongue to aid in catching its prey – which includes insects and spiders as well as small lizards, mice, and other toad species. Colorado River Toads have poison glands as a defense mechanism. The toxin gets in the mouth of predators and can cause nausea, paralysis, and even death. This poses a danger to pets, especially dogs, and people should avoid handling these toads. Color the toad brown or olive green with a white or cream underbelly.