American Toad

APPEARANCE
- Adults 2 to 3.5 inches from snout to vent
- Short legs, stout body, and noticeable warts
- Skin is normally a shade of brown, possibly with black spots on the back

RANGE IN IOWA
- Statewide

HABITAT
- Every habitat, from cities and towns to parks and backyards
- Need semi-permanent water for reproduction

DIET
- Anything it can fit in its mouth, mostly insects and other invertebrates

FUN FACTS
- Important for controlling insect pest populations
- Toads do not cause warts!
- Protects itself from predators by producing a toxin in its skin that makes predators sick and by puffing itself up with air to look bigger
- Most active at night in hot, humid weather
- Will burrow under the ground to escape hot, dry periods and freezing temperatures
- Males trying to mate will produce a high-pitched trill that can last for 30 seconds
- Uses its hands and forearms to push large food into its mouths
- Females can produce over 20,000 eggs in one reproduction cycle