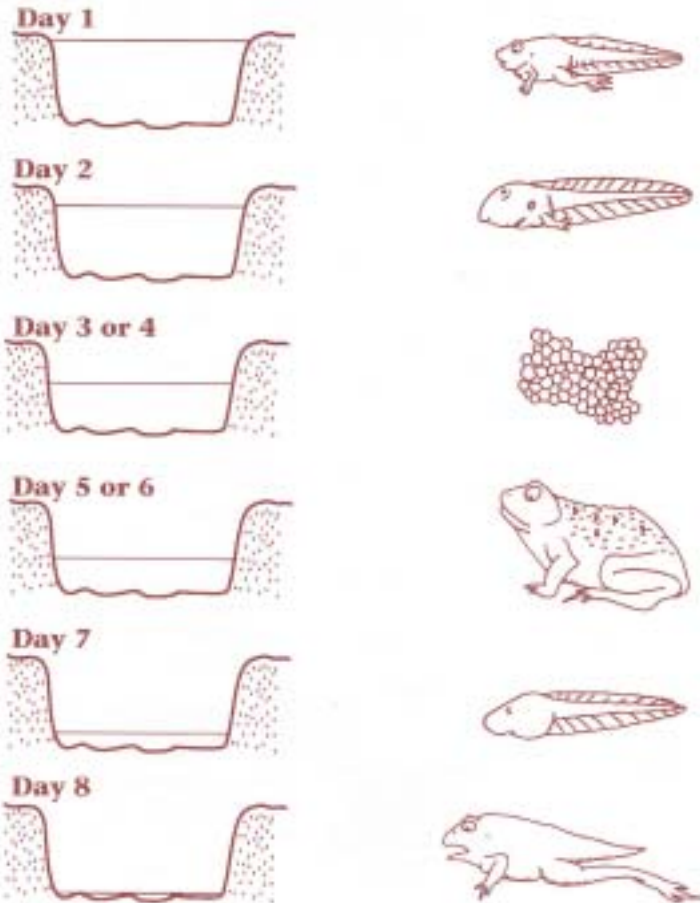




# Sam, Super Spadefoot Toad

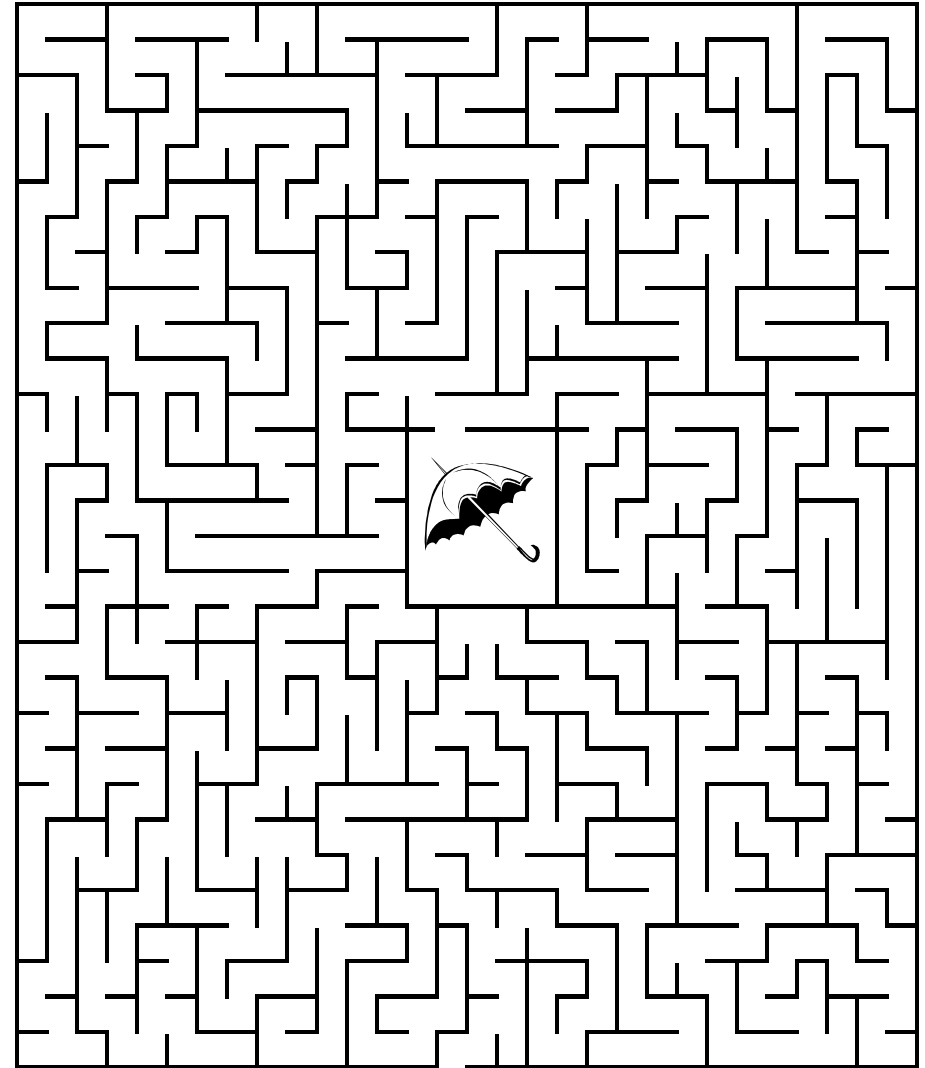
My name is Sam and I am a super spadefoot toad! Most *amphibians* must live near water, but I live in the dry Sonoran Desert. I just came out of my underground burrow, which I dug with my "spadefoot," because I heard the sound of raindrops on the surface. I spend much of my life (10 months to 2 years) in a *dormant* state, slowing all my body's systems way down. Now that the *monsoons* are here, I have come above ground to eat and find a mate. I will sing all night long – some people think I sound rather like a sheep – until I find one. The rains may not come again soon, so we have to raise a family quickly. Because a 10" deep puddle may only last 10 days in the hot desert sun, our eggs will hatch in less than a day. One day later, tiny tadpoles develop eyes and a mouth. In 3-4 days, they have rear legs. Next, tails begin to shrink and front legs appear. By the 7<sup>th</sup> day, their gills are gone and their lungs begin to breathe air. We hold the world record for amphibian development – from egg to toad in just 8 days! See if you can match each stage of my development to the right puddle!



Tohono Chul Park's

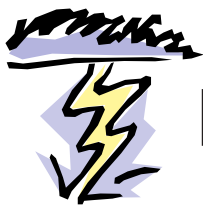
# Monsoon Madness!

Enter the monsoon maze to find shelter from the storm!



^ enter here

with thanks to HELP and the Bronx Zoo



## Lightning Rules

# Monsoon Safety!

## Water Hazards



1. If you are outside, go inside your house, any large building, or an enclosed car – not a convertible.
  2. If you can't get inside, **stay away from:**  
metal fences, pipes, clotheslines, railroad tracks, swimming pools, lakes, or other bodies of water, **(if you are in the water – get out right away!),** bicycles, scooters, golf carts, and motorcycles, telephone poles, tall trees, or saguaros that stand alone.
  3. If you are in the open desert, go to a low area where there are smaller trees, like an arroyo or wash – but watch for flash floods!
  4. If you are in an open area and can't get to a building, crouch down and wrap your arms around your legs, but **don't** lie down.
  5. If you are inside, **don't** use the telephone unless it is an emergency. Stay away from electrical appliances and plumbing.
- Now, draw an X where you think lightning might strike in this picture. Draw a circle around the safest place to be.



Here is a picture of a desert wash. It may look safe and dry now, but what happens when it rains? Can you draw a thunderstorm in the distance, and show what happens to the biker?

Runoff from storms in the mountains or out in the desert can quickly fill dry washes. A fast-moving wall of water 10' to 30' high will wash away anything in its path. Remember, don't play, hike, or camp in a wash during monsoon season or whenever thunderstorms threaten. And, if a road is closed, don't try to go through – the water is deeper than it looks and moving very fast. When in doubt – wait until the water is gone, or find a safer route!





# Monsoon! CrissCross



A crossword puzzle grid with 24 numbered starting points. The grid is partially filled with illustrations related to weather and monsoons:

- 1: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the top left.
- 2: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the second cell of 1.
- 3: 10-letter vertical word starting at the third cell of 1.
- 4: 10-letter vertical word starting at the fourth cell of 3.
- 5: 10-letter vertical word starting at the fifth cell of 3.
- 6: 10-letter vertical word starting at the sixth cell of 3.
- 7: 10-letter vertical word starting at the seventh cell of 3.
- 8: 10-letter vertical word starting at the eighth cell of 3.
- 9: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the ninth cell of 3.
- 10: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the tenth cell of 3.
- 11: 10-letter vertical word starting at the eleventh cell of 3.
- 12: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the twelfth cell of 3.
- 13: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the thirteenth cell of 3.
- 14: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the fourteenth cell of 3.
- 15: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the fifteenth cell of 3.
- 16: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the sixteenth cell of 3.
- 17: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the seventeenth cell of 3.
- 18: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the eighteenth cell of 3.
- 19: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the nineteenth cell of 3.
- 20: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the twentieth cell of 3.
- 21: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the twenty-first cell of 3.
- 22: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the twenty-second cell of 3.
- 23: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the twenty-third cell of 3.
- 24: 10-letter horizontal word starting at the twenty-fourth cell of 3.

Illustrations include:

- A sun partially obscured by a cloud with raindrops (near 12).
- A rain cloud with rain falling (near 18).
- A shower of rain falling (near 7).
- Two birds splashing in a puddle (near 19).
- An open umbrella (near 24).

# Across

1. giant cactus whose harvested fruits help bring the summer monsoon

9. keeps us from getting wet when it rains

12. opposite of dry

13. colored lights after a storm

15. tiny desert tornado

16. flying blood suckers

18. opposite of cold



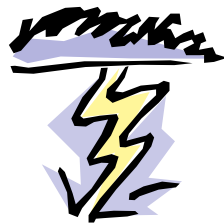
19. what a Tucson street turns into when it rains a LOT

21. what happens when water wears down the desert

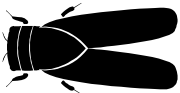


22. the sound of a summer storm

23. messes up your hair and blows the dust around



24. when the air gets "sticky"



# Down

2. a heavy rain that quickly fills gullies



3. this froggy goes courting when the rains come



4. Spanish for a big ditch

5. too much water moving too fast

6. Ben Franklin discovered its electricity

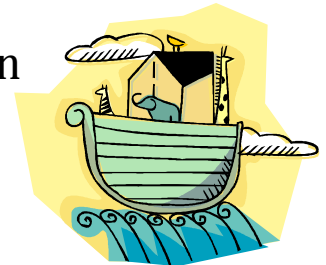
7. water in small spaces



8. our extra season of heat and no rain

10. what we call our summer rains

11. a weatherman's word for rain



14. the "sound" of summer

17. what the desert smells like when it rains

20. they take on many shapes, but never last