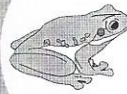
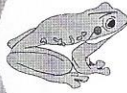
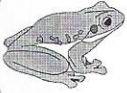


**Text 11** *Does a flying squirrel really fly?*

## Animals With Parachutes

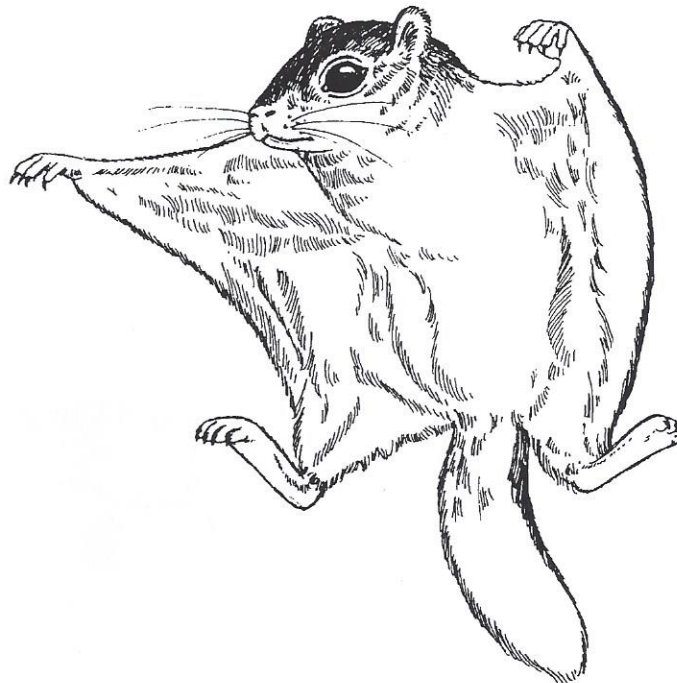


A skydiver jumps from a plane and begins falling to the ground. The skydiver's body is falling quickly. The speed is deadly. But before long, the skydiver's parachute opens like a huge umbrella. The parachute greatly slows the skydiver's speed. Now the skydiver can drift safely to the ground.

Some animals have built-in parachutes which help them glide through the air. The flying squirrel is a good example. When a flying squirrel wants to get from a high tree branch to a lower one, it leaps into the air with its four legs spread wide

apart. Flaps of skin between its front and back legs act like a parachute to slow the squirrel's fall. The squirrel can control which way it falls by steering with its wide, flat tail. Flying squirrels usually glide about 60 feet from branch to branch. But they can glide as far as 150 feet in one leap!

The flying tree frogs of Asia have built-in parachutes, too. The frog's parachutes are the webbed skin between its long toes. When the frog is resting, the skin is folded up. But when the frog leaps, it stretches its toes apart to unfold its parachutes.



- 1. What happens when a skydiver releases a parachute?**

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- 2. A flying squirrel can control which way it falls by steering with its —**

- (A) feet.
- (B) skin flaps.
- (C) tail.
- (D) head.

- 3. Does a flying squirrel really fly? Explain your answer.**

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- 4. According to the article, how are flying squirrels and flying tree frogs alike?**

- (F) They both have built-in parachutes.
- (G) They both have webbed skin.
- (H) They both glide about 150 feet.
- (J) They both live in Asia.

