



It's Raining Cats and . . . Frogs?

Have you had any strange weather in your town this week? Even if you have, it probably won't top September 7, 1953. That's the day it rained frogs and toads in the town of Leicester, Massachusetts! The streets were covered with leaping frogs. Children filled buckets with them. A newspaper said the frogs and toads hopped out of a pond that had overflowed. But, people said they saw the frogs and toads fall from the sky. They found them on roofs of houses.



This "frogfall" was probably less scary than what happened in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1877. There, it rained black snakes! The snakes ranged from one foot long to 1.5 feet long. There were thousands of them. People thought the snakes might have been swept into a huge windstorm. When the storm ended, the snakes fell from the sky. But, if that were true, why didn't twigs, stones, and other things fall along with the snakes? It was strange that only snakes would have been swept from the ground and nothing else.

It's easy to see how a rain of animals from the sea or a lake could happen during a big storm. Sometimes, water from a pond is sucked up by a huge wind. Then, it is rained down somewhere else. Maybe that's what happened in Tiller's Ferry, South Carolina, in 1901. It rained fish there! Trout and catfish fell in a heavy rain from the sky. After the storm, fish were found swimming in puddles in the cotton fields.

There are many reports of strange things falling from the sky. Other places have had "rains" of rocks, golf balls, ducks, and even candy! Keep your eyes open for the next interesting storm. It might be in *your* town.

Conversions

1 foot = 30.48 centimeters

1.5 feet = 45.72 centimeters

