Doodle Lou's
Make a Toad House
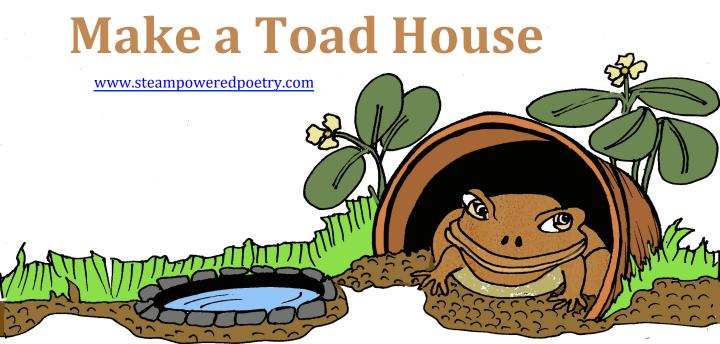
Attracting a toad in your garden is VERY useful. Toads won't eat your plants but they do eat insects, slugs and snails, all of which can be harmful to your garden. One toad can eat over a hundred insects in a night! (*And* they swallow their dinners whole!) To welcome a toad to your garden, make a toad house! Make sure your toad has access to water: a small bowl sunken into the soil will do. Find a shady location for your toad house, under a bush or plant with low-hanging leaves works well. (By the way, toads DO NOT cause warts!)

Materials:
- A terracotta flowerpot, at least 5" in diameter.
- Soapy water and a scrub brush
- A trowel for digging
- Moss, leaves, rocks, or twigs to hide the flowerpot after it is "planted".
- A small plastic or ceramic bowl at least 4" in diameter to keep the toad moist.
- Water for the bowl.

Directions:
1. Wash the terra-cotta pot with the scrub brush and warm, soapy water. Rinse and dry well.
2. Position the flowerpot so the opening is facing north (away from the sun). Dig a shallow rectangular hole using the trowel. The hole should be about 3 inches deep, and the length and width of your flowerpot.
3. Turn the flowerpot sideways and place into the hole. Half of it should be below ground level, and the other half should be above ground level.
4. Fill the inside floor of the flowerpot with dirt level with the ground and pat it down firmly.
5. Make toad house less obvious to visitors by nestling it among moss, leaves, rocks, or twigs.
6. Place your bowl near the toad house. Sink it into the ground so the top edge should be level with the ground. Toads don't drink water, but they soak their bodies in it to absorb what they need through their skin.
7. If you don't get a resident in your toad habitat within a week or two, you might want to go to a local pond or wooded area and see if you can catch one.

Next Generation Science Standard LS.4.D: Biodiversity and Humans: *There are many different kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water.*