**Student Worksheet: The tiny “toad” of many crowns**

**Directions**: Read the online *Science News* article: “The Brazilian flea toad may be the world’s smallest vertebrate.” Then answer the following questions as directed by your teacher.

**Before Reading**1. You’ll need a pen/pencil, a ruler, a blank piece of paper, and a coin (any variety). Trace an outline of your coin on your paper. Measure the diameter and write down your measurement. Now imagine an object that is 7 millimeters (0.27 inch) in diameter sitting atop your coin. Would this object be larger or smaller than the coin? Draw a star on your coin outline approximately 7 millimeters (0.27 inch) in diameter to represent this object.

2. Imagine the object in Question 1 is a 7-millimeter-long (0.27 inch) animal. Is an animal this size likelier to be a vertebrate (an animal with a backbone) or an invertebrate (an animal without a backbone)? Explain your answer.

**During Reading**

1. Read the first sentence of this story, then write down what you think this story will discuss. Why did the author open the story with that line?

2. List the flea toad’s two “titles.”

3. How does the flea toad’s size compare to the previous record holder?

4. In which country was the flea toad discovered?

5. What is the scientific name for the previous record holder?

6. Describe two anatomical differences between the frogs in this article and more typical frogs.

**After Reading**

1. Why is the name “flea toad” misleading? How might the animal’s name be changed to more accurately describe this species?

2. What are some physical features of this animal that might hint at the misleading nature of its name? Feel free to do a quick internet search.