

FROG FOLLIES

Teacher's Pre & Post Trip Information

Grades: K-2

Theme: Frogs are amphibians, a fascinating type of animal with distinctive characteristics and a unique lifecycle.

Objectives:

- Students will be able to describe the characteristics of amphibians
- Students will be able to describe the steps in frog metamorphosis
- Students will be able to mimic at least one frog call and name the frog that makes that call
- Students will observe frog habitat, and observe live frogs (weather permitting)

Learning Plan:

Topics: amphibian life cycle (metamorphosis), habitat, predator-prey relationships, and identification

Student activities: introduction to amphibians with posters, and by dressing up a student like a frog, predator-prey game, hiking near water, investigating amphibian life cycles, and hearing frog calls and repeating the sounds

Learning Area	Goal #	Standard	Level and Benchmark
Language Arts	4	A	1a-c, 2a-c
	4	B	1b
Science	12	A	1a-b, 2a
	12	B	1a-b, 2a-b
Physical Education	21	A	1a-b, 2a-b

Vocabulary:

- **Respect** – to care for, to show concern for
- **Preserve** – to keep safe, to save or protect
- **Habitat** – the arrangement of food, water, shelter and space suitable to an animal's needs
- **Adaptation** – a behavior, physical feature, or other characteristic that helps an animal survive

- **Cold blooded** – body temperature is the same as the animal’s surroundings; it cannot produce its own body heat
- **Camouflage** – coloration that enables an animal to blend in with its surroundings
- **Metamorphosis** – transformation of an animal’s body from one form to another as part of its lifecycle
- **Amphibian** – an animal such as a frog which lives both on land and in water. Common characteristics include: eggs laid in water, each egg surrounded by jelly (i.e. no shell), do not have claws or scales, tadpoles go through metamorphosis, often have smooth skin (except toads)
- **Hibernate** – to be inactive (‘sleep’) during the cold months of the year

Supplemental Activities:

The following activities are suggestions for use in the classroom before and/or after the school program. Not all are appropriate for all age groups. Feel free to adapt them for your students’ abilities.

Writing activities:

- Write a book of facts about frogs. Have the students write frog facts on frog shaped paper. (www.teachers.net/lessons)
- Have children pick a frog to research and prepare a short classroom report.

Science Activities:

- Give each student a series of statements which they have to cut out and place in correct sequence.
The correct cycle sequenced by the students will be:
The mass of eggs is called spawn.
The tadpoles hatch out of their eggs after about a week.
The tadpole has gills to breathe under the water. They eat plants and bits of seaweed.
After about five weeks changes take place. Back legs and lungs grow.
Front legs are next. A froglet is growing.
By three months the froglets are ready to leave the pond. The froglet will keep the skin wet.
At about two years frogs are ready to start their cycle again.
(www.english.unitechnology.ac.nz)
- Create a food web starting with the frog in the center. Now add what eats a frog and then what a frog eats.

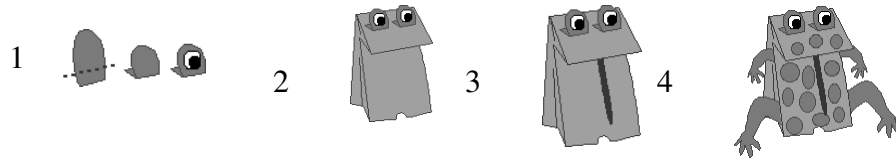
Physical Development: (Movement)

- Show children a video on frogs. Have children imitate the way the frogs move in the video.

Fine Arts:

- **Frog Puppet** (kiddyhouse.com)
 1. Make bulging frog eyes by cutting two strips of green paper that are rounded on one end. Fold the straight end under (at the dotted line), and glue on an eye (made of paper or a googly eye).
 2. Glue or tape the folded base of the eyes onto the paper bag.
 3. Cut a long tongue out of paper. Glue in in the frog's mouth.

4. Glue on two short arms and two long legs, and decorate the frog with green paper patches.



- Create a frog lifecycle. Print off pictures of frog eggs, tadpoles, tadpole with two legs, tadpole with four legs, froglet, and finally a frog. Have children cut out the pictures and glue them on a piece of paper in order.

Suggested Readings:

- **Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Illinois***
Philips, Brandon, and Moll
This guide is to help the reader learn about all 102 species of amphibians and reptiles that live within the boundaries of Illinois. Basic information is presented on their biology and life history, as well as a brief discussion of the species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the state's Endangered Species Protection Act.
- **A Frog in the Bog**
by Karma Wilson
A frog in the bog grows larger and larger as he eats more and more bugs, until he attracts the attention of an alligator who puts an end to his eating.
- **Frogs and Toads***
Bobbie Kalman and Tammy Everts
What is the difference between a frog and a toad? Does touching a toad cause warts? Frogs and Toads answers children's questions using amazing natural photographs that leap right off the page.
- **Frogs, Toads, and Turtles (Take-Along Guide)**
by Diane L. Burns
Helps children identify different species. Features detailed true-to-life illustrations. Has fun activities and projects.
- **From Tadpole to Frog (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science 1)**
by Wendy Pfeffer
Wendy Pfeffer describes the amazing metamorphosis from tiny, jellylike egg, to little fishy tadpole, to great big bullfrog. Holly Keller has created the archetypal frog pond and we see it through the seasons as the tadpoles grow legs and lungs and eventually hop onto land: bullfrogs at last.
- **National Audubon Society's First Field Guide Series: Amphibians**
These unique field guides offer beginning naturalists easy-to-use, visually stunning resources to help them observe and investigate the natural world.
- **Slime, Scales and Mudpuppy Tails***
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
This booklet describes several different species of amphibians and reptiles. It lists the scientific and common names for the species of amphibians and reptiles and features a series of questions that differentiate one species from the other. Information about identifying characteristics, natural habitats, habits, and reproduction information is also provided.

Additional Resources:

Web sites

- <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/frog/intro.htm>
- www.frogweb.gov

DNR Education Website: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/education/index.htm>

- Educational supplements (CD-ROMs for students and teachers, educational trunks, posters, books, etc.)
- ENTICE workshop schedule
- Project WET, Project WILD, and Project Learning Tree
- Contests and grants

Audubon Illinois Wildlife Series Display Boards*

- Butterflies and Moths
- Amazing Bats
- Illinois Owls

See www.champaigncountyaudubon.org for a list of resources for loan housed at the Education Center at the Homer Lake Forest Preserve.

**Available for loan from the Education Center at Homer Lake Forest Preserve. We have many more items in addition to those listed – please call 896-2455 for more information.*