



Frog Fun

Introduction

In the book *Jo MacDonald Saw a Pond*, author Mary Quattlebaum introduces children to the plants and creatures of a pond ecosystem. In this activity and its related connections, children focus on frogs and explore their growth cycle through writing and drawing, and discuss the work of a frog scientist.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Several pieces of paper
- ◆ Colored markers or crayons

Key Concepts

- ◆ Plants and animals have life cycles.
- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions.
- ◆ Science can be a life-long career.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Have children find the frog in the pictures in the book. What is it doing?
2. Explain that the pictures show the adult frog but that its life cycle includes three stages of growth: eggs, tadpoles, and adult frogs. (This information is included in the bullfrog description in the back.)
3. Show children pictures of these three stages in other books or on the internet. How do they move? What parts of their body allow them to move? What do they eat?
4. Have children act out the different stages (still eggs; wriggly, swimming tadpoles, leaping adult frogs.)
5. Ask them to pretend to be a tadpole and to write a letter to a frog. What would the tadpole like to ask the frog? What would it like to say about its life as a tadpole? About its growing legs? About the other pond creatures? Ask children to illustrate their letter.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Share the book *The Frog Scientist* (Houghton Mifflin, 2009) by Pamela Turner with the class. The author introduces Dr. Tyrone Hayes, who loved frogs as a kid and grew up to be a scientist doing research to help frogs. He examines the effect upon frogs of changes in their environment because he wants to understand why the frog population around the world is declining. Encourage students to look at and talk about the book's photos. Does Dr. Hayes work in a lab or in the field or both? What kind of equipment does he use? What has he discovered through his research?

Additional Resources

Life Cycle of a Frog

<http://www.frog-life-cycle.com>

Frog Facts and Fun

<http://www.allaboutfrogs.org>

FrogWatch USA

<http://www.aza.org/frogwatch/>

Frog Crafts

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/frogs.htm>

American Bullfrog

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/american-bullfrog/>

