

Feed The Frog

Dear Presenter,

This is a 20 to 25 minute presentation and HANDS-ON activity for approximately 24 ten year-old children. You **MUST** do this activity at home **BEFORE** you attempt to lead the activity during the Water Festival. You may want to line up a volunteer helper for this activity.

As each new group of students arrive, find the classroom teacher, introduce yourself, and let the teacher know this is a hands-on activity and you will need assistance from him/her. If you do not ask for assistance, the teacher will assume that **YOU** are the **EXPERT** and they are the observer! Plan when you will ask the teacher for assistance! **DO NOT** hesitate to call the teacher by name and politely ask for their assistance with **ANY** of your needs.

As each session begins, introduce yourself and your volunteer helper to the students. "Good morning, my name is.... and I work for..., I am a or simply I am happy to be here today." Then introduce the topic of this presentation. Each step of this presentation is explained in this packet. These are recommended guidelines and do not have to be followed exactly word for word. However, you may present this material just as written. Feel free to personalize the presentation to suit you.

Thank you for volunteering to present "Feed The Frog." Have fun, enjoy yourself, and we hope you will consider volunteering again next year.

Big Sioux Water Festival

Feed The Frog

BACKGROUND

Background information is provided as a basic overview with both general and specific information. Share this information with the students throughout the presentation.

The continental United States is home to at least 230 amphibian species: 90 frog and toad species, and 140 species of salamanders. Frogs reside just about anywhere there's standing or slow moving fresh water. Habitat for frogs can be mountains, rain forests, prairies, deserts, about anywhere.

Frogs are cold blooded meaning that their body is the same temperature as their surroundings. Frogs lay their jelly-like eggs in water. The eggs metamorphose from a larval stage to an adult. Frogs tend to be moist, slimy and they jump. Toads are dry, warty and they walk. Most frogs range from 20-80 mm. The smallest frog is from Brazil and is only about 9.8 mm long. The largest frog is from West Africa and is about 300 mm long!

Frogs and toads are the largest and most diverse group of amphibians and make up over 90% of all species. Over 3,000 species are found throughout the world. They are also the most vocal of all amphibians. During the breeding season, males call loudly to attract mates and ward off competing males. Inflatable vocal sacs amplify the calls. A group of frogs is called an army.

Most amphibians are protected from predators by toxic skin secretions. The skin toxins of the poison arrow frogs of tropical America are potent enough to kill a human even in tiny quantities. Natives who share the poison arrow frog's rainforest home use its poison to coat the tips of their hunting arrows.

The defensive skin secretions of toads are mistakenly believed by many to cause warts. In fact, they are completely harmless to human skin, but a predator that gets a mouthful will become extremely ill.

Most adult frogs are carnivorous. Almost any small animals that move - insects, earthworms, fish, and even an occasional bird, snake, turtle, or mouse - are fair game if a frog can catch it. But unlike other amphibians, most frogs don't start out as meat eaters. Before they undergo metamorphosis, they eat mainly bacteria and algae. As they are going through metamorphosis, a tadpole will actually eat its tail. This can take anywhere from hours to days.

Frogs swallow their food whole - so they are limited by the size of their mouth as to what they can eat. One important fact is that frogs won't eat dead insects. Frogs also don't drink, but absorb water from their surroundings through their skin (by osmosis). A frog's tongue is covered with mucus so that prey will stick. When a frog eats something that is poisonous or otherwise bad for them, they can throw up their entire stomach. That is, the stomach actually protrudes through their mouth and they wipe it with their right front leg. The reason they use their right front leg is that the stomach of frogs is slightly towards their left side. When the stomach is ejected, it pulls to the right - the right front leg can reach the stomach (and the left can't).

When going after prey, some frogs attack by opening their mouths widely, grunting, screaming, lunging and biting.

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MATERIALS LIST

(For 6 presentations with approximately 24 students)

CONSUMABLES

- 180 copies of frog mask
- 180 copies of bugs
- 180 party blowers
- Velcro coins (6 per mask per student)
- Variety of colors of yarn, cut in pieces

NON-CONSUMABLES

- Variety of colors of large-tipped markers
- Variety of colors of fine-tipped markers
- Variety of display frogs
- Laminated frog posters (4)
- 3 Marvy 4" hole punches (for use by adults only)
- Stopwatch
- 10 hole punches (for student use)
- 72 pair of scissors
- 7 stands to hold markers
- 7 mini aluminum buckets to hold scissors and hole punches
- Poster tac
- Large trash can
- Set of frog fact cards
- Presenter instructions, cue cards and folder

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ROOM REQUIREMENT

PRE-PREPARATION

- Check supplies against supply list
- Make 180 copies of frog mask
- Make 180 copies of bug sheet
- Cut pieces of yarn into 12" strings - you will need approximately 360 strings
- Read through background information to familiarize yourself with facts to relay to your students

PREPARATION: Approximately 30 minutes to set up

- Place a variety of colors of markers, both fine-tipped and large-tipped into the marker holding stands and place one on each table
- Place several pairs of scissors and one hole punch in the mini aluminum buckets and then place on table
- Hang posters around the room
- Place display frogs in an area where students can easily view them

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THIS A 20-25 MINUTE PRESENTATION

(Procedure note cards for this presentation are included)

To best explain and supervise this activity, ONE MUST DO THIS ACTIVITY before the actual presentation

INTENDED STUDENT OUTCOMES

By completing this activity students should be able to :

- Understand that amphibians reside all over Earth
- Understand basic life cycle of amphibians
- Learn fun and interesting facts about frogs

PROCEDURE

1. Introductions
2. Tell students basic background information on amphibians.
3. Pass out one copy of the mask and one copy of the bugs to each student. Instruct them to color the sheets. Show and tell them about the posters and display frogs, reminding them that not all frogs are green!
4. When students have finished with coloring their sheets, have them carefully cut out the bugs and the mask. Have students use the hole punch to punch holes on the side of the face (shown on the mask) and tie yarn strings through the holes. Next have students use the round hole punch to place holes on the nose (these are for the students' eyes when then put on the mask) and also in the mouth.
5. Hand out velcro coins to each student. Hand out 5 hook coins and 1 loop per student (or 5 loops and 1 hook per student). Have student attach 1 hook coin on each bug. Next have student attach the velcro loop to the end of the party blower.
6. Tell students to carefully place the party blower into the hole in the mouth of the mask. Assist students with tying on their masks (don't hesitate to ask the teacher and other adults to help with this task).
7. Explain to students that you are now going to have a bug eating race. Tell them they will have one minute to eat as many of their bugs as they can. A bug is eaten when the student expands the party blower and "catches" the velcro loop to the velcro hook on each bug.

8. When all the kids are ready, start the stop watch and time the race for 1 minute. If time permits, you can do this several times. Another suggestion is to divide the kids into teams (boys vs. girls, rainforest-type frogs vs. prairie frogs, etc.) and have them race against each other, keeping score on the chalkboard or white board.

SET UP FOR NEXT SESSION

- Have students replace all markers into the stands.
- Have students replace all scissors and whole punches into buckets.
- Make sure all "trash" paper scraps are placed in trash can
- Advise students to place their masks, bugs and party blower into the bags (provided by the Festival) to take home with them
- Thank everyone for participating, compliment behavior and answer any questions the children may still have

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FINAL CLEAN UP AFTER LAST SESSION (Approximately 30 minutes)

- Check all lids to markers to make sure they're on tightly. Replace markers in appropriate containers
- Replace scissors and hole punches into containers
- Replace posters
- Return all display frogs to their storage container
- Place any remaining poster tac into ziplock bag
- Place any unused party blowers into large ziplock bags
- Stack marker stands and place in larger storage container
- Place any unused velcro coins into containers
- Place any unused yarn strings into large yarn container
- Return all instructions, cue cards, and frog fact cards to presenter folder
- Place all items into large storage container