



OUTDOOR WILDLIFE AWARD



PROJECT: AMPHIBIANS

GOALS

- A. AMPHIBIAN FACTS:** Identify four different **amphibians** and four characteristics of **amphibians**.
B. AMPHIBIAN CHALLENGE: Care for tadpoles.

A. AMPHIBIAN FACTS

Amphibian Examples (Identify 4.)

- salamanders, frogs, toads, newts, caecilians

Amphibian Characteristics (Identify 4.)

- cold-blooded
- breathe with lungs and gills
- live on land and in water
- young (larvae) breath with gills in water
- adults breathe through the skin and lungs
- lay a large amount of eggs
- moist and smooth skin absorbs oxygen and water

ANIMAL SAFETY: Handle amphibians with caution. Amphibians absorb air and water through their skin, making it very sensitive. Oils, salts, and lotions from your hand can harm them. Also, many amphibians have poison in their skin as a defense mechanism.

B. AMPHIBIAN CHALLENGE

Buy tadpoles at the local pet store or catch locally. Care for and observe their growth to adult frogs.

Supply Checklist

- tank (aquarium, glass jar, or bucket)
- fresh water (avoid tap water—chlorine can kill tadpoles)
- food (tadpole pellets or homemade tadpole food)
- rocks and sand for the bottom of the tank

FUN FACT: GOLIATH FROGS in Africa can grow to 12-30 inches long, but their tadpoles are just as small as any other frog or toad!

Step 1—Tadpole Catching

- Go to your local pet store or to a local water area to look for tadpoles (check local laws for policies and guidelines).
- Use a small net or bucket to catch the tadpoles (fill bucket with water, avoid tapwater).
- Buy or catch 5-10 tadpoles.

Step 2—Tank Preparation

- Fill your tank with fresh spring water (not tap).
- Add rocks and sand to the bottom.
- Let everything settle.
- Add in tadpoles.
- Place the tank in a shady spot.

FUN FACT: AMERICAN BULLFROGS hide on the banks of rivers and eat bugs, crayfish, small fish, and even other frogs. Very large bullfrogs can eat birds, snakes, and even bats!

□ Step 3—Feeding

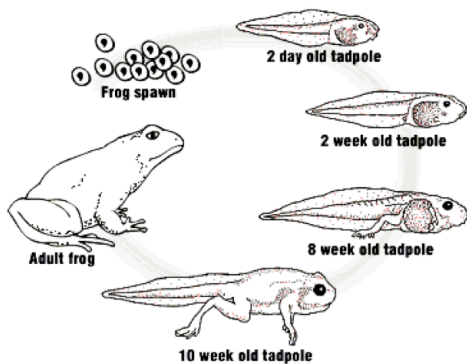
- Feed tadpoles daily with tadpole pellets or homemade food (see below).
- If there is food floating in the water, don't add more, wait until the food is gone.

Homemade Tadpole Food

- Boil a few lettuce leaves for 10-15 minutes.
- Let cool, chop up, and leave enough out for the week (freeze the rest).
- Drop just a little bit in the tank at a time.

□ Step 4—Observe Tadpole Growth

1. The entire process with a tadpole can take 6-12 weeks depending on the species.
2. Once your tadpoles start growing legs, make sure they have a way to get out of the water. Add in floating pieces of wood or a long branch sticking out they can push off.



FUN FACT: GOLDEN POISON FROGS have enough poison to kill 100 people. Tribes in South America wipe the tips of their darts on the frog's back to make their weapons deadly. You can tell a poison frog by its bright skin!

□ Step 5—Release Your Frogs

1. Set your frogs free in the wild!
2. Make sure you release them near a clean, fresh source of water.

RESEARCH MORE

- animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/amphibians
- kids.sandiegozoo.org/animals/amphibians
- *Frogs and Toads: The Leggy Leapers* by Sarah Swan Miller
- *The Frogs and Toads of North America* by Lang Elliott, et al.
- *A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians* by Peterson Field Guides

My child has successfully completed the Project Goals for the topic—Amphibians.

Adult Signature: _____ Date: _____

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