



THE FROG PRINCE

Synopsis

A pretentious princess, a curious curse and an awkward amphibian meet in this tale of persistence and dedication. A spoiled princess loses her beloved gold ball down a well and when she promises friendship to the frog in the well, he returns the ball. In an effort to break her promise to the frog, the princess races back into the castle only to be followed by the persistent amphibian.

Of course once in the castle, a riotous comedy of errors erupts in the dining room and the frog wreaks havoc on the young princess's life. Forced to retreat to her bedroom, the princess is followed by the frog and realizes they may actually enjoy each other's company.

Unfortunately, before their friendship is cemented, they begin to argue and the princess throws the frog out of the window. Upon crashing to the ground, the frog becomes a prince and we learn that he too was a selfish, spoiled child who was punished by a witch and turned into a frog. He can only stay human if he learns to be a good friend. Alone and sad without her new friend, the princess heads off to the well to find him.

In the meantime, the frog prince's frog friends rally around him and try to protect him from the evil witch who has returned to reinforce her spell since his friendship with the princess has fallen apart. Luckily the tenacity of the frog prince and the new found resolve of the princess prove too much for the evil witch.

The Frog Prince

The ArtReach production of *The Frog Prince* is about a selfish princess and her frog companion. The frog is really a selfish prince who overcomes his selfishness and becomes a friend to the princess. However, the prince was a frog for many years and lived with other frogs and toads, and through that, he learned many things about being a frog.

In this activity, students will learn and understand the main differences between frogs and toads, as well as information about their habitats and behaviors.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Reading segment on next page. (Source: University of Michigan Museum of Zoology: Animal Diversity Web <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/index.html>)
- Question list on next page.
- Pencil and paper to write answers

ACTIVITY

1. Introduce basic information about frogs and toads to the class. Ensure the class has an understanding of characteristics (use students as example: brown eyes, blonde hair, black tennis shoes, etc.)
2. Facilitate class discussion about student knowledge of frogs and toads. Have them discuss their characteristics, habitats and behaviors.
3. Divide students into groups to read and discuss the reading material (or) teacher should read the material aloud to the students depending on reading level.
4. Using the attached frogs and toads question worksheet, have students fill in the information on frogs and toads.
5. Once all groups have finished, come back together as a class to discuss the answers to the questions.
6. Facilitate class discussion to see how accurate the original predictions of characteristics of frogs and toads and their behaviors were. Question Prompt: Why do you think frogs have ____ characteristic? Why do you think toads have ____ characteristic? Does it help the frog or toad in any way? What is it about their habitats that make them safe for frogs and toads? Does your habitat make you safe in the same way?

The Frog Prince Reading Material

There are many different frogs and toads that live in the state of Ohio. This selection discusses one species of each: the Green Frog and the American Toad. You will learn the identifying characteristics of each amphibian as well as information on their habitat and behaviors.

CHARACTERISTICS

American Toads have short legs, thick skin with warts, and chunky bodies. The warts on the toad can be red or yellow. Their skin is normally some form of brown but it can also be red, greenish, or gray. Their skin color changes depending on temperature, humidity and stress. Toads have four toes on each front leg and five toes connected by webbing on their back legs. Their eyes are oval and black with a circle of gold around them. One interesting characteristic of toads is that they do not drink water; they absorb moisture through their skin like a sponge.

Green frogs are green, greenish brown, brown, yellow-green, and very rarely, blue. They are brighter in front with small black spots. They have yellow or white bellies and males usually have a bright yellow throat. The toes are all webbed and the first fingers are not longer than the second fingers.

HABITAT

American Toads are found throughout large portions of North America, mainly found in the northern states of the United States and in Canada. They are generally not present in the southern states of the U.S. They can survive as long as there is a source of semi-permanent water available to use during breeding season. In addition to water, toads also need vegetation and food. Since toads only need water, shelter, and food, they can live almost anywhere from gardens to fields, to backyards, and ponds.

Green Frogs live in a variety of habitats such as swamps, forests, ponds, lakes, bogs, rivers, and streams. They are found throughout the United States and Canada, with the exception of southern Florida and the western part of the United States.

BEHAVIOR

American toads are mainly active at night. They are most active when the weather is warm and humid. During the day, toads hide under rocks, logs, or dig into dead leaves and dirt to keep cool. In places like the northern United States where winter is cold, toads dig deep in the ground to hibernate. Adult toads are carnivores and eat insects, snails, beetles, slugs, and earthworms. One toad can eat up to 1,000 insects in a day.

Green Frogs are active during both the day and night. They become dormant during cold weather. They are very solitary animals, only becoming social during breeding season. They have excellent vision and use it to find and catch their prey. Green Frogs are carnivores and eat many different insects as well as slugs, snails, crayfish, spiders, flies, caterpillars, butterflies, and moths. They can also eat small snakes and frogs.

The Frog Prince Question Worksheet

1. How many different colors can the skin of a toad be? _____
2. Are Green Frogs white on top? ____
3. What is the rarest color of green frog? _____
4. What three things do toads need to survive? _____, _____, _____
5. If you find an amphibian with four toes in front and five in the back, what is it most likely going to be? _____
6. Toads are mainly nocturnal, meaning they are most active at: _____
7. How many insects can a toad eat in one day? __, ____
8. Both frogs and toads are this kind of eater, meaning they eat meat:

9. Toads like this kind of climate: _____ and _____ to be most active.
10. Toads, like bears, do this in the winter time. _____
11. These are the colors the belly of a frog could be: _____ or _____
12. Toads don't _____ water; they absorb moisture through their skin like a sponge.
13. This color is found around the eyes of a toad. _____
14. Toads have these on their skin, but they don't cause them in humans. _____
15. Frogs toes are all this, unlike toads who only have this characteristic on their back feet.

The Frog Prince Question Worksheet (SOLUTION)

1. How many different colors can the skin of a toad be? (FOUR)
2. Are Green Frogs white on top? (NO)
3. What is the rarest color of green frog? (BLUE)
4. What three things do toads need to survive? (WATER, SHELTER, FOOD)
5. If you find an amphibian with four toes in front and five in the back, what is it most likely going to be? (TOAD)
6. Toads are mainly nocturnal, meaning they are most active at: (NIGHT)
7. How many insects can a toad eat in one day? (1,000)
8. Both frogs and toads are this kind of eater, meaning they eat meat: (CARNIVORE)
9. Toads like this kind of climate: (WARM) and (HUMID) to be most active.
10. Toads, like bears, do this in the winter time. (HIBERNATE)
11. These are the colors the belly of a frog could be: (WHITE) or (YELLOW)
12. Toads don't (DRINK) water; they absorb moisture through their skin like a sponge.
13. This color is found around the eyes of a toad. (GOLD)
14. Toads have these on their skin, but they don't cause them in humans. (WARTS)
15. Frogs toes are all this, unlike toads who only have this characteristic on their back feet. (WEBBED)

THE FROG PRINCE

HELP THE FROG TURN BACK INTO A PRINCE!

