

Welcome/ Staff/Volunteer Names
Introduction: **Today's Topic-Frogs and Tadpoles** **Question: What makes a frog a frog?**

Icebreaker/
Game: **Leap Frog**

Background/ Ask the students to think of examples of reptiles and amphibians.
Exploration: (frogs, toads, turtles, snakes, lizards, salamanders)

What is a reptile/amphibian? Lead the students through four stations that help explain herp similarities and differences.

What is a frog? What is a toad?

Help the students compare and contrast frog and toad characteristics. Look at similarities/differences in collected tadpoles, frogs, & toads.

Toads– Have bumpy, rougher skin, live farther from water, shed their skin, secrete a poison from their skin to defend themselves.

Frogs-Live near or in the water, skin is smooth.

Life cycles of amphibians, reptiles-Use a poster/display to illustrate the differences.

Frog/toad

- eggs laid in water
- hatch into tadpole with gills
- vegetarian/herbivore
- metamorphosis to turn into an adult with legs and lungs
- adults are carnivore/predator

Turtle

- eggs laid on land
- hatch into small turtles
- go to water, eat and grow into a bigger adult turtle
- young and adults are carnivores/predators

Activity: **Frog Calls**-Look at a frog poster/display showing different herps. Demonstrate their calls.
Help students learn and practice some basic calls.
We will explore around wetlands to look & listen for frogs & toads.

Outdoor Hike to different nearby wetlands, including a shallow pond or creek.
Exploration: Look & listen for frogs & toads or signs of them (eggs).
Help the students look for frog or toad eyes at the waterline.

Look for spring changes and wildflowers on the hike back.

Game: **Turtle Survivor**
Learn about hazards for hatching turtles by playing this game.

Closing: Review-what makes a frog?

Send Off: Goodbye! **Take Home:** Frog activity

Vocabulary

Reptile, Amphibian, gills, metamorphosis, herbivore, carnivore, herp.

References

Hickman, Pamela. 1993. *Wetlands*. Kids Can Press, Tonawanda, NY. Props to mimic frog calls.

Iowa Wildlife. 1998. Iowa Association of Naturalists Booklet Series. ISU Press, Ames, IA. (IAN-601--606)
Iowa Reptiles and Amphibians (IAN-604) <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/wi.htm>