

FROGS & TOADS

LESSON PLAN



WOLF RIDGESM
ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CENTER

FROGS & TOADS



CLASS DESCRIPTION: An Animal Ecology Class

Students will be introduced to the adaptations and diversity of amphibians in Northern Minnesota by focusing on frogs and toads. While exploring one of Wolf Ridge's ideal amphibian habitats, students will use all of their senses to observe our local frog and toad populations. Other activities will focus on conservation and research of amphibian populations in Minnesota and around the world.

Total time: 3 hours (two hours outdoors)

Audience: 6-20 students, 4th grade through adult

Activity level: moderate

Travel: ~1 mile

GUIDING QUESTIONS

What are frog and toad adaptations and how can we use these to identify species?

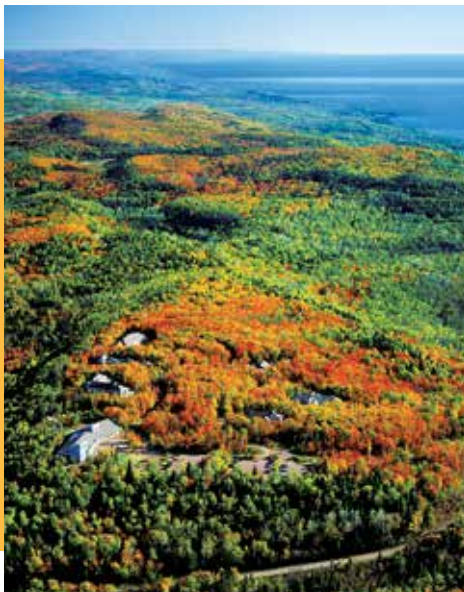
CONCEPTS

1. All living things acquire physical and behavioral adaptations to be successful in their environment.
2. Observation of direct and indirect evidence is a valuable skill and learning tool.
3. Humans have a great ability to alter natural systems, and a responsibility to consider the effects of our actions.

OUTCOMES

Upon completion of Frogs & Toads class students will be able to:

- *Define adaptations and give specific amphibian examples.*
- *Use visual and vocal field marks in combination with identification tools to identify different frog and toad species.*
- *Recognize the importance of and various ways to protect declining amphibian populations.*



Our mission is to develop a citizenry that has the knowledge, skills, motivation and commitment to act together for a quality environment.

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Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center and the USDA are equal opportunity providers and employers.



Equipment

- frogs and toads of Minnesota poster
- live Tree frog travel container
- pictures of northern MN frog & toad species (8)
- frog sounds CD
- tape measure
- pictures of frogs and toads with jump distance (5)
- frog adaptations draw-on worksheets (4)
- "Life" video clip on DVD
- backpack
- iPod with frog calls app
- northern MN frogs and toads ID booklets (9)
- nets (2)
- small viewing containers (2)
- large bucket
- frogwatch write-on worksheets (6)
- frog population cards (6)
- pencils and erasers

Appendices

- Glossary
- Additional Information
- Optional Activities
- References
- Sources
- Spiral Learning Sheet
- Planning Outline

Set-up (15 min.)

- Classroom/class prep description
- Safety Management

I. How do we compare frog and toad? (15 min.)

II. What are frog and toad characteristics? (20 min.)

- A. Anuran Adaptations
- B. Amphibians
- C. Frog and Toad Families

[Travel to the Wetlands (20 min.)]

III. Can we identify northern MN species? (15 min.)

- A. Tools for Frog and Toad Identification
- B. Introduce Northern Minnesota Species

IV. Can we find frogs and toads? (70 min.)

- A. Identify Idea Habitat
- B. Search for Frogs and Toads

V. What do frog populations look like on a larger scale? (15 min.)

- A. Reasons for Decline
- B. Why should we protect amphibians?

VI. What can I do? (15 min.)

- A. Make an Amphibian Conservation Plan
- B. Stewardship Actions
- C. Review [Return to the classroom (20 min.)]

Clean-up (10 min.)