

Science Frog Fun!

Purpose:

- Make observations of a rain forest frog
- Create habitats for a rain forest frog
- Learn about coloration in animals (for camouflage and for advertising)
- Demonstrate that science is fun

Activity 1: Creating a Frog Habitat for Camouflage

Supplies (for each group):

- 1 model frog (toy frog collections can be purchased from TheNatureStore.com <http://thenaturestore.com/frogtoad.htm> or from a local toy store)
- Pencil
- Paper
- Colorful magazines
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Clear tape
- 9 X 12 piece of cardboard
- Push pins or thumb tacks to display finished camouflage card

Work in groups of two. Using a pencil and paper, ask each group to observe and write down the physical characteristics of their rain forest frog (size, shape, texture, and color). Explain that some frogs have colors that can help them camouflage, or hide in their environments.

To camouflage their frog, have each group create a habitat card. Create habitat cards by flipping through magazines and tearing out colors that will

make the rain forest frog disappear. Make textures for the habitat by curling or crumpling the magazine colors. Place the colors on the piece of cardboard. When a habitat is created that camouflages the frog, glue the colors in place and trim the edges of the board. Find a hiding spot for the frog on the board and tape the frog in position. Tack up the habitat card with other habitat cards in a designated area of the room. View the habitat card at close range and then step back halfway across the room. View the habitat cards made by other groups.

Discussion:

1. What do good habitats for camouflage have in common?
2. Why would camouflage be an advantage for some frogs in the wild?

Activity 2: Creating a Frog Habitat for Advertising

Supplies (for each group):

- Continue using the supplies from Activity 1

Explain that some frogs have colors in order to advertise or stand out in their environments. Have each group retrieve the habitat card made in Activity 1 and flip it over. On the other side of the cardboard, create a habitat that best advertises the frog. Glue and trim the habitat card. After taping the frog in position, view the habitat card at close range and from halfway across the room.

Discussion:

1. Why would advertising be an advantage for some frogs in the wild?

Adapted from: Wonderwise Rain Forest Ecologist <http://wonderwise.unl.edu/>



2 activities for grades 3-6. Allow 60 minutes. Science Standard - Life Science
Colorado State University Extension 4-H Youth Development