



Jacoby Creek Land Trust

PO Box 33 • Bayside, CA 95524

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A LIFE LOG: FROM EGG TO FROG

Grades: 2-8

Subjects: Science, Environmental Studies

Group Size: 3+

Duration: 30-60

Setting: Outside and/or inside

Key Words: frog lifecycle and habitat, riparian restoration, native species and wildlife habitat, ecology

Goals/Objectives: By studying the lifecycle of the frog, students will be able to:

1. Compare and contrast the lifecycles of different species.
2. Recognize a similarity in the basic needs of all living organisms and how they effect their own environment.
3. Evaluate their relationship with other forms of life and the interdependency between them.

Background: By studying the lifecycles of different organisms, students will learn that all living things are born, grow and change, consume water and food, and die. Hands-on experiences as well as creative writing, art-related and cognitive activities are used to demonstrate the beauty and complexity of the transitions all of life must go through. Explore the Jacoby Creek and the riparian ponds to find frogs at different stages of their lifecycles. You can collect eggs, tadpoles, and juvenile and adult frogs to observe more closely in a jar or through a microscope, but you must remember to respectfully return them to their homes when you are finished observing them.

Materials & Prep: Material needs vary according to what kind of activity you would like to conduct. If you would like to collect frogs and tadpoles, you will need nets, jars and/or pans, and microscopes or magnifying glasses. If you would like the students to draw or write about what they have learned, they will need journals, paper, and writing or drawing utensils. There are many books about the frog lifecycle, which may be helpful to read before or during this activity.

Activity: Activities for lifecycle lessons are very diverse. Be creative and open. Work in groups and as individuals. Study together in the classroom and explore the great outdoors. Study books and bring in the experts. Journals or other record keeping devices can be used and could include lifecycle charts, descriptions and/or measurements. *If you would like to temporarily collect tadpoles*



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and frogs from the Jacoby Creek or ponds, please remember to respectfully return them to their homes before they show signs of distress. Below are some ideas for activities.

- Collect frog eggs, tadpoles, and juvenile and adult frogs. Create a Life Log: From Egg to Frog with a lifecycle diagram and descriptions of each stage. Try to identify where the frogs you've observed fit in their lifecycle diagrams.
- After identifying frogs in various lifecycle stages, students can write or draw about something interesting they observed or learned during the activity. They could pretend they are frogs and write their life stories, making certain they mention their lifecycle somewhere in their illustrated tales.
- As a class or individuals, write letters to an organization or multiple organizations devoted to the care of animals or the preservation of animals in danger of extinction. Ask for information about the animal, its lifecycle, or suggestions on how you can help. For example, the California red-legged frog, which lives in the Jacoby Creek watershed, is listed as threatened by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).
- Compare and contrast the different lifecycles of different animals. Discuss or write about the most successful organisms in terms of their lifecycles. Don't forget, humans are animals too!



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