

## Science – “Hey polliwog!” – The Life Cycle of the Frog

### Reading/Discussion:

What do we know about frogs? First, they are small animals, which belong to a group called **amphibians**. This means that part of their lives are lived in the water and part on the land. Frogs are **cold-blooded**, which means that unlike your body’s temperature that is the same, no matter what the weather is (unless you are ill), the frog’s temperature is the same as its environment. Frogs do not have to drink water as most animals do, because water is absorbed straight through their skin. Frogs have strong hind legs and can jump a long way.

Frogs are important to us because they eat many insect pests. They catch them by shooting out their tongues. The insects stick to its sticky surface and the frog quickly swallows them. He couldn’t chew them even if he wanted to, because he only has teeth in his upper jaw!

As you can see, the frog is an interesting animal. However, the most interesting thing is that a frog’s babies don’t look like frogs at all!

Frogs lay their eggs in water or in wet places. The clump of eggs is called **spawn**. After about 21 days, the eggs hatch and out come **tadpoles or polliwogs** so small, they have to attach themselves to weeds or grass in the water so that they aren’t washed away. They eat tiny plants called **algae**. Unlike their parents, tadpoles have no legs; instead, they have long tails and gills like fish. They cannot live out of the water and if the pond dries up, they will die.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **Science – “Hey polliwog!” – The Life Cycle of the Frog (Cont’d)**

After about 5 weeks, the tadpoles begin to change. They start to grow their back legs and then the front ones. Their tail slowly gets smaller and eventually disappears. Their lungs begin to develop and they start wriggling up to the surface of the water every now and then to practice breathing air.

By about 11 weeks after the egg was laid, a little frog will climb out of the water. From this time on the frog will live mostly on the land, eating insects and worms and only occasionally going for a swim.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Science – “Hey polliwog!” – The Life Cycle of the Frog Questions

A: All about frogs

How much do you know about frogs? Can you fill in the missing words?

1. Frogs belong to a group called .....
2. A frog's temperature is the same as its environment, it is .....
3. Frogs do not have to drink water because it is ..... through their skin.
4. Frogs have strong ..... and can jump a long way.
5. Frogs catch insects by shooting out their .....
6. The insects stick to its ..... surface.
7. Frogs can't chew because they only have teeth in their .....

B: Sort out the cycle.

Here are some sentences telling you all about the life cycle of the frog. Can you put them in the correct order?

- After about 5 weeks the tadpoles begin to change.
- Their lungs develop.
- Their tails disappear.
- After about 21 days the eggs hatch.
- Their short front legs start growing.
- The little frog climbs out of the water.
- Frogs lay their eggs, called spawn in water.
- The tadpoles have no legs, instead they have long tails and gills like fish.
- Their long back legs start growing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Science – “Hey polliwog!” – The Life Cycle of the Frog Answers

### Activity A

1. amphibians
2. cold-blooded
3. absorbed
4. hind legs
5. tongues
6. sticky
7. upper jaw

### Activity B

- Frogs lay their eggs, called spawn in water.
- After about 21 days the eggs hatch.
- The tadpoles have no legs; instead they have long tails and gills like fish.
- After about 5 weeks the tadpoles begin to change.
- Their long back legs start growing.
- Their short front legs start growing.
- Their tails disappear.
- Their lungs develop.
- The little frog climbs out of the water.