

Woodsy Owl's Curiosity Club- Amphibians

Safety Disclaimer: This program is designed for children WITH their parent or caretaker. Please review this program and designate a safe place for you and your child to participate. Woodsy Owl's Curiosity Club usually takes place at the Cradle of Forestry in America during the summer, weekly from 10:30am to 12pm. Since the Corona Virus we are designing new ways for children to learn about nature and stay safe. For 2020 we are offering these Digital Woodsy Owl programs for adults to be able to lead at home. Please enjoy and we hope to see you and your child for our 2021 programs at the Cradle.

About Woodsy Owl:

Caring, friendly, and wise, Woodsy Owl is a whimsical fellow and he's got his heart set on motivating kids to form healthy, lasting relationships with nature. As Woodsy flies across our land, he encourages youngsters to marvel at and explore the natural world, even in the city. His motto "Lend a Hand - Care for the Land!" encourages everyone to make a positive difference in their world. Woodsy Owl was created by the US Forest Service and these educational programs are brought to you by forest service partners- FIND Outdoors.



Story Time:

Noisy Frog Sing-Along by John Himmelman

Watch Stephanie read the book aloud here: <https://youtu.be/-tzVyA7NKtc>

About Amphibians:

Amphibians are:

- Cold-blooded (which means they are whatever temperature it is outside)
- Have skin that is slimy and moist (Many can breathe through their skin and need their skin to stay wet to breathe)
- Have a backbone like you and me
- Lay eggs that are soft and need to be moist or wet
- Hibernate or even freeze in cold climates
- Frogs, toads, salamanders, newts, caecilians are all amphibians

Activity: Frog Jump!

Here is an opportunity for your child to compare their jumping abilities with those of a frog. Both humans and frogs have large, strong thigh muscles. However, frogs can jump much greater distances relative to their small size than a human can. Frogs need to jump quickly to escape predators and catch food.

Materials Needed:

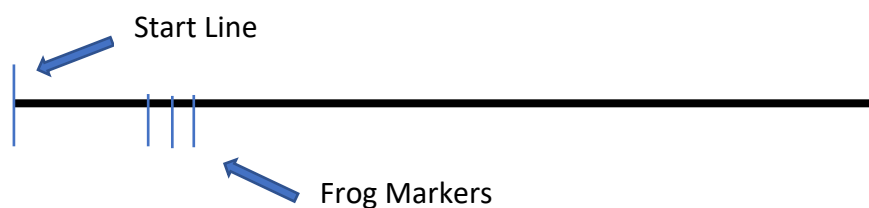
- (optional) Pictures of American bullfrog, northern leopard frog and South African sharp-nosed grass frog with the average size of each frog on the picture
- Tape measure or yard stick
- Masking tape, sticks, slips of paper, markers (to mark the frogs & children jump lengths)

Set Up: on the floor or ground make a starting line, whether that's with tape or a stick. Measure the different frog jump distances from the start lines and mark either with tape, sticks, & paper. Your little owls can help with this part. 😊

Instructions: First introduce your child to the three frogs by showing them a picture and size of each. Use a ruler and look at the "length of frog" and show size on the ruler. How do they compare in size? Have them look closely at the legs. How do they compare to each other? How do they compare to a human's legs? Can they predict which frog would have the longest jump?

Next show your child the distance each frog can jump. If you are doing the measuring together, get out a measuring tape and mark how far each frog can jump from the start line. Where their predictions correct?

Have your child go to the "Start" line. Ask them if they can jump as far as the frogs? Then have them jump, then measure and mark the distance with masking tape or other marker. Have your child explain how their jump compares to the distances the frogs can jump. Why are they different?



American Bullfrog

Length of frog = 20.3 cm / 8 inches
Maximum jump = 213 cm / 83 inches



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Northern Leopard Frog

Length of frog = 20.3 cm / 5 inches
Maximum jump = 162.5 cm / 64 inches



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South African Sharp-Nosed Grass Frog

Length of frog = 7.6 cm / 3 inches
Maximum jump = 334 cm / 131 inches



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Craft: Feed the Frog

Materials:

- Paper or plastic cup
- Green construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- (optional) googly eyes or you can draw them on
- Frog food- plastic bugs if you have them. You can also use pom-pom balls or cut up small pieces of yarn (to act like worms)
- Tweezers to work on fine motor skills



Example photo from kidsactivitiesblog.com

What to do:

First start off by making the frog. Your child will need the cup, paper, scissors & glue for this. Have them use their imagination, but have them make the mouth of the frog, the cup opening.

Once the frog is assembled and dried, you will need to gather plastic bugs or make bugs to feed your frog. If you are making them you can cut up small pieces of yarn to be worms or use any small items your child can pick up with tweezers to feed their frog.

Last, have your child feed their frog and have fun! Challenge them by having them count how much they feed the frog or request they feed the frog a certain number of bugs.

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