

Unit 6



Week 2

Outdoor Learning Opportunities:

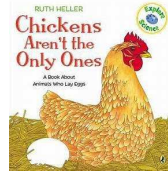
Animal Life Cycles – Collecting Tadpoles

Standards:

S.LS.PS.1, 3-5

SED.ED.SE.PS.1

PHD.FM.PS.5



Materials:

- Aquarium or small fish tank
- Water from the pond/stream where you find the frog eggs and bottled water (or tap water that has sat out for at least 24 hours to add as needed)
- Bag of aquarium gravel or rocks from the pond and a few larger stones
- Artificial plants for the tadpoles to hide behind
- Tadpoles and/or frogspawn (frog eggs)
- Food for tadpoles (tropical fish food flakes for young tadpoles, freeze dried bloodworm for tadpoles when they begin to form legs)
- Ladle or small containers

Vocabulary:

- Aquarium
- Frogspawn (frog eggs)
- Tadpole
- Froglet (tadpole that has grown legs and absorbed its tail)
- Metamorphosis
- Vernal ponds (temporary ponds that form after a rain)

To observe the life cycle of a frog and learn about metamorphosis with the children, collecting frogspawn (frog eggs) or tadpoles is a great way to get the children involved. Set up an aquarium or small fish tank in the classroom. Fill it with local pond water where you will be taking the children to catch frogspawn and/or tadpoles. Make sure you have seen frog eggs or tadpoles in the pond prior to going. Sometimes the best places to look are vernal ponds or puddles after a good rain. Add the aquarium gravel and large rocks to the tank on an incline. Make sure there is a space for the froglets to come out of the water once they are starting to breathe air.



Provide a ladle or small containers for the children to use when you get to the pond. Collect frogspawn if possible so the children can watch the eggs hatch into tadpoles, but if only tadpoles are available, those are fine, too. Add the eggs and tadpoles to the fish tank. Feed the tadpoles fish flakes until they start to grow legs, then switch to freeze dried bloodworm. Once the tadpoles have become froglets they will not eat for a few days, but will absorb their tail as food. When the froglet is big enough to hold, take it back to the pond where you found the eggs.



Extension: Children can draw the different stages of development in a journal as they observe the frog going through metamorphosis.

Extension 2: Have children learn the life cycle of the frog with 3D rubber frog life cycle stages of development from Acorn Naturalists (www.acornnaturalists.com). They can also use frog stamps of the different stages of development and cards with the stages on them.

Guiding Questions:

- What is frogspawn?
- What are the stages of development of a frog?
- What is metamorphosis?
- How can we help a tadpole become a frog?

Information taken from:

<https://runwildmychild.com/raising-tadpoles-with-kids/>