

# TEACHERS' TOOLKIT

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HOMEWORKWEEKLY: UPPER PRIMARY 0037

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## Frogs under threat

There is growing concern around the world about the potential for the extinction of frogs. As a result of these concerns, an international breeding program, called *Amphibian Ark*, has been designed to try and save hundreds of species. There are about 6000 amphibian species worldwide, with about 2000 now threatened with extinction.



*Agalychnis callidryas*  
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[Search **MacquarieNet** for *Frogs* to find out more about this topic.]

The *Amphibian Ark* project is being established in order to try and stop or slow down the threat of extinction of these amphibian creatures.

Australia has many different frog species, with over 200 known and probably more to be discovered. However, like elsewhere in the world, Australia's frog populations are declining. This is a disturbing trend, because the presence of frogs is a good indication of a healthy environment. If frogs start to disappear, then something is wrong with the ecosystem where they live.

Did you know?

Although frogs have lungs to breathe, they also breathe through their skin to regulate moisture and fluid transfer. Some frogs also cover their skin in a slimy substance (mucus) to protect the skin and keep it moist. Despite their need to stay moist, frogs have adapted to an extraordinary range of environments, particularly in Australia. But can they keep adapting in order to survive?

While global changes to air and water quality, and climate change effect frogs and frogs' natural habitats, other threats include:

- introduction of fish into water catchments, that prey on the frog eggs and tadpoles
- habitat disturbance from forest management, road works, converting ponds to dams and increased salinity caused by land clearing
- recreational activities in mountain catchments, such as trail bikes and 4WD vehicles.
- increased erosion, weed invasion and bushfires
- humans introducing non-native species, and the use of herbicides and pesticides.

You can help threatened frogs by:

- Taking care when visiting national parks that you disturb as little as possible
- Not removing frogs or tadpoles from the wild
- Not disturbing rocks and logs that could be a habitat for frogs
- Not touching frogs
- Joining a conservation group.

### Did you know?

Frogs are sometimes referred to as *the canary in the coal mine*.

The phrase living like *a canary in a coal mine* often refers to serving as a warning to others.

Miners kept caged canaries in the mines as an "early warning device." If the air was bad enough to kill the canary, it would soon be bad enough to kill people. The canaries were more sensitive to the deadly fumes. So their dying would warn the miners to get out. Today we sometimes use the expression in relation to environmental matters.

## Spelling

Find the words in the passage that underlined. Using your dictionary, find the meaning of these words and any other words that you are unsure about in the news article. Add these words to your weekly personal word list. Write out your list of spelling words each day this week to help you learn them. Have a friend test you on your words on Friday.

Colour in each box as you complete the task.

Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday

## After reading

Answer these questions after reading the passage on the previous page.

1. What is <i>Amphibian Ark</i> ?	
2. List at least two facts about frogs' skins?	
3. In your own words, what does the phrase <i>the canary in the coal mine</i> mean. Where did the saying start?	
4. What is habitat disturbance?	
5. Design a poster or fact sheet to help alert other people about the frog extinction threat?	

## Word study

### True or False?

(You might want to explore the internet for some help.)

1. Frogs are amphibians. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Amphibians live in water all of the time. \_\_\_\_\_
3. A salamander is an amphibian with a tail. \_\_\_\_\_
4. An army duck is amphibious. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Frogs give you warts. \_\_\_\_\_

### Plurals

Change all the singular words that are underlined to the plural and rewrite the sentences.

1. The Round Burrowing Frog lives in a sand dune.  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The woman watched a frog snapping up a fly.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. When a marsupial frog is a baby it stays in a pouch.  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. A fox is an enemy to a toad.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Maths

### Headwork

1. Is 3 a factor of 45? \_\_\_\_\_
2.  $7 \times 300 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
3.  $2.1 + 7.5 + 3.9 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
4. Write 0.15 as a fraction. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Write  $\frac{3}{5}$  as a percentage. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Write 81% in decimal form. \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the value of 2 in 134.2? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which is least, 10% of 100 or 10% of 200? \_\_\_\_\_
9.  $210 \div 10 =$  \_\_\_\_\_
10. What is the cost of 17 bus tickets at 35c each? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What is the perimeter of a square with a side of 7cm? \_\_\_\_\_
12. 5101, 4094, 4087, 4080,  \_\_\_\_\_
13. Round 3004 to the nearest 10. \_\_\_\_\_
14. What is left from \$15 if you spend \$11.41? \_\_\_\_\_
15. 2, 6, 18, 54,  \_\_\_\_\_

### Problems with Number Facts

Show your working

1. Write nine tenths as a fraction, in decimal form, and as a percentage.
2. Rick ate 0.5 of a pizza; Kylie ate 0.25 of a pizza. Draw what the remainder of the pizza looks like.
3. Alan wants to set his VCR to record a program beginning at 11:30am and lasting for 1.5 hrs. What time will he set for the end of the program?

## Research

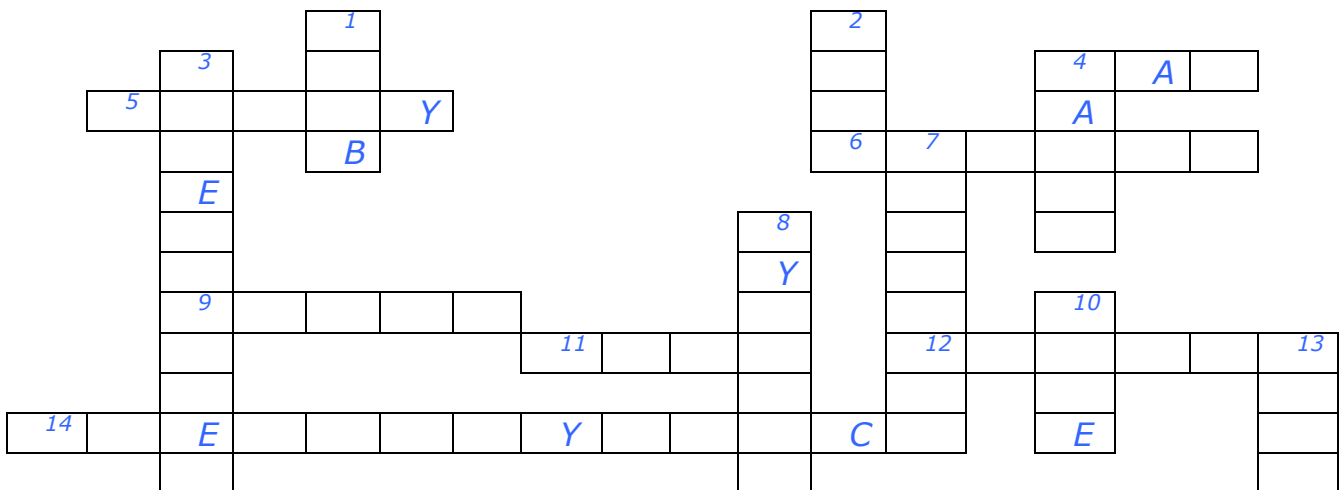
### Ancient Egypt

#### ACROSS

4. One of the many sacred Egyptian animals
5. A preserved human body
6. The fabled monster with a human head and a lion's body
9. The Egyptian sky god
11. A town on the banks of the Nile opposite Cairo
12. The Egyptian god of the dead
14. Pictures and symbols used in ancient writing

#### DOWN

1. Place where bodies are buried
2. Queen god of the moon
3. A famous Egyptian king
4. The capital of Egypt
7. Ancient Egyptian kings
8. The triangular tombstone of Egyptian pharaohs
10. The longest river in Egypt
13. The desert is made of this



## ANSWERS

### Frogs under threat

#### After Reading

1. The *Amphibian Ark* project is a project to try and stop or slow down the threat of extinction of these amphibian creatures.
2. Frogs breathe through their skin to regulate moisture and fluid transfer.  
Some frogs cover their skin in a slimy substance to protect the skin and keep it moist.
3. Answers will vary.
4. When the place where creatures (frogs) live is upset by human and non-human actions, such as roads, dams, land clearing, etc
5. Answers will vary.

### Word Study

#### True or False?

1. True 2. False 3. True 4. True 5. False

#### Plurals

1. Round Burrowing Frogs live in sand dunes.
2. The women watched the frogs snapping up flies.
3. When marsupial frogs are babies they stay in a pouch.
4. Foxes are an enemy to toads.

### Maths:

#### Headwork

yes, 2100, 13.5,  $\frac{15}{100}$  or  $\frac{3}{20}$ , 60%, 0.81, 0.2, 10% of 100, 21, \$5.95, 28cm, 4073, 3000, \$3.59, 162

#### Problems

- (1)  $\frac{9}{10}$ , 0.9, 90% (2) Drawing should be of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a pizza (3) 1 pm

### Research

#### Crossword

				T							I						
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		E										H		R			
		N								P		A		O			
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		H	O	R	U	S				R		A		N			
		A					G	I	Z	A		O	S	I	R	I	S
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H	I	E	R	O	G	L	Y	P	H	I	C	S		E			N
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