

TEACHERS' TOOLKIT

THE MAGAZINE + WEBSITE FOR AUSTRALIAN TEACHERS WWW.TEACHERSTOOLKIT.NET.AU

HOMEWORKWEEKLY: MIDDLE 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
Macquarie Images
Library.

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

Australia has over 200 different frog species. However, like elsewhere in the world, Australia's frog populations are getting smaller. The presence of frogs is considered 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 where frogs live, other threats include:

- introduction of fish into water catchments, that prey on the frog eggs and tadpoles
- habitat disturbance from forest management and land clearing and road works, and converting ponds to dams
- human activities in mountain catchments, such as trail bikes and 4WD vehicles.
- increased erosion, weed invasion and bushfires

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 are 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. How many different types of frog species does Australia have?	
3. What does it indicate if frogs start to disappear?	
4. List 2 things that you feel are threatening the frog population?	
5. Describe how you might help frogs to better survive?	

Word Study

Grammar

The words on the left below have been put into groups. Look at each of the group of words, and draw a line to match them with the correct label on the right.

they, he, it, her
 national, traditional, ceremonial, senior
 is, are, to record, disappear
 Warray, band, music, dance

LABELS

verbs
 adjectives
 nouns
 pronouns

Verbs

Verbs include doing, thinking, being and saying words. They also show whether the action is taking place in the past, the present or in the future.

Complete the table by putting in the past, present and future of the verb.

Base verb	Past tense	Present tense	Future tense
walk	walked	am walking	will walk
shout			
bring			
sing			
tell			

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. Over 200 species.
3. That there is something wrong with the ecosystem in which frogs live.
4. Answers will vary. Could include: roads, dams, land clearing, introduction of new fish, trail bikes and 4WDs, weeds, bushfires, erosion.
5. Answers will vary.

Word Study

Grammar

they, he, it, her = pronouns; national, traditional, ceremonial, senior = adjectives;
is, are, to record, disappear = verbs; Warray, band, music, dance = nouns

Verbs and their tenses

Shout:	shouted	am shouting	will shout
Bring:	brought	am bringing	will bring
Sing:	sang	am singing	will sing
Tell:	told	am telling	will tell

Maths

Headwork

300 cents, 5cm, 22, 55 cents, 2, 48 hrs, 3, \$1.10, 6, 7, 26, 15, 7, 11 cents, 2½

Fractions & Decimals

Fractions Table - 1, 1½, $\frac{5}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$

Decimal Table - 1, 0.8, 1.3, 0.9

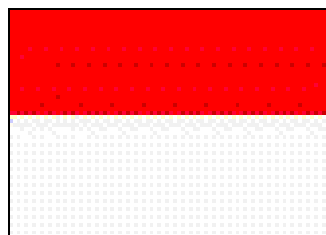
Equivalent Fractions - $0.6 = \frac{6}{10}$ $0.75 = \frac{3}{4}$ $0.9 = \frac{9}{10}$ $1.5 = 1\frac{1}{2}$ $0.2 = \frac{2}{10}$

Research

Flags of our near neighbours:



New Zealand flag



Indonesian flag



Papua New Guinean flag



Australian Aboriginal flag



Torres Strait Islander flag



Australian flag