The Frog Life Cycle: A Mini-Unit

Learning At The Primary Pond
Dear Teacher,

Thank you for investing in my product! I hope you find the materials useful in teaching your students about the frog life cycle. Prior to beginning the unit, please look through the lesson plans, suggested texts, and centers ideas to get a sense of what you'll need to supplement the materials in this pack. You may want to consider ordering tadpoles for your classroom (this would need to be done before you begin the unit).

Included in this pack:
- Suggested texts & online resources
- 8 complete lessons, including printable materials, a craft, and an assessment
- Student writing books, graphic organizers, worksheets, and cut-and-paste activities
- 5 different leveled texts for students to read
- 1 craft (pop-up book)
- Centers ideas and materials
- 2 read-aloud or shared reading passages

If you have any trouble printing these materials (or the pages of the printable books are coming out as different sizes), please follow these steps:

1. Update your Adobe Reader and restart your computer.
2. Use the “print as image” option to print the file (find directions here).

If you continue to have problems, please contact TpT support here.

Happy Teaching!

Alison

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## Lesson Plans

### Lesson 1:
**What is a tadpole?**

**Materials Needed:**
- Picture of a tadpole (Appendix B)
- Simple nonfiction readaloud book on the life cycle of a frog
- Frog Life Cycle Poster (Appendix C)

Show students a real tadpole or a picture of a tadpole (see Appendix B). Question students: What is this? What do you notice about its body? Some students may guess that it is a tadpole, but don't provide feedback - just let them share their ideas. Then, read aloud a simple nonfiction text on the frog life cycle. Afterward, ask students again what they think the picture is, and have them describe to you how the tadpole will change as it grows.

### Lesson 2:
**How do tadpoles change?**

**Materials Needed:**
- Mail order tadpoles (optional)
- Frog observation journals (Appendix D)

Order tadpoles through the mail and print frog observation journals for the children to use to record their observations (two different versions are included, one for younger children and one for older children - see Appendix D).

If you're not able to order tadpoles, try this link instead: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqUwVvcz0Ck. Have students watch the video (it goes very quickly), and pause it every few seconds to have them record their observations in the frog observation journal.

### Lesson 3:
**Frog Life Cycle Sequencing**

**Materials Needed:**
- Frog Life Cycle Sequencing Worksheets for students (Appendix E)

Mix up one set of the pictures from the Frog Life Cycle Sequencing Worksheet (Appendix E) and display them so the children can see. Ask, “Are this pictures in the correct order? How can I fix them?” Have the children direct you to place the pictures in the correct order.

Have students complete the cut-and-paste worksheet. Ask K or 1st grade students to write a word or phrase next to each phase in the student life cycle after they glue down the pictures.
Lesson 4: Comparing Tadpoles and Frogs

Materials Needed:
- Access to websites
- Comparing tadpoles and frogs Venn diagram (Appendix F)

Ask students: How are the body parts of a frog and tadpole different? Have them turn and talk to a partner about this.

Show this picture of a tadpole (scroll all the way down to the bottom of the page):

Then, show one or both of these pictures of a frog:
http://www.infovisual.info/02/026_en.html
http://passscience.blogspot.com/2010/09/frog-rana-tigrina.html (you have to scroll halfway down the page for the diagram)

Discuss these images and what the children notice. Then, draw a Venn diagram on chart paper or the board. Have students volunteer ideas for the differences between frogs and tadpoles. You can also have students fill out their own Venn diagrams (Appendix F).

Lesson 5: Frog Videos

Materials Needed:
- Access to websites
- “Tadpole Blues” lyrics (Appendix G)

Watch the “Frogs” video on BrainPop, Jr., if your school has a subscription. Discovery Education also has some great videos (just type in “frog life cycle”), if your school has a subscription to this site. If you don’t have subscriptions to either of these sites, check out these links for free: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDrKq-SEOGO OR http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_xru_1lyPg. Discuss what the students learned from the videos.

Teach students Peter Combe’s song “Tadpole Blues” (you can purchase it on iTunes, or check it out here on YouTube for free - kids adore this song! http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgM20r6WnHI). You can go over the lyrics (Appendix G) so that students better understand the song. The students will enjoy singing this song throughout the rest of this unit.
**Lesson 6:**
Frog Facts Jumping Game

**Materials Needed:**
- Nonfiction readaloud text about the frogs

Read aloud a nonfiction text about frogs. Then, explain to students that today they will be playing a true or false game. You will read some facts about frogs, but some of the facts will not be true. If they hear a fact that is true, they should jump like a frog. If a fact is not true, they should stay where they are.

Spread students out around the classroom to play. Use statements like these to get the game started (you may need to adjust the difficulty level depending upon what students have learned).

- Frogs are amphibians (true).
- Frogs are reptiles (false).
- Frogs lay their eggs on land (false).
- Tadpoles are born without lungs (true).
- Tadpoles’ front legs grow first (false).
- A young frog is called a froglet (true).
- Tadpoles are fish (false).
- Frogs have dry, bumpy skin (false).

**Lesson 7:**
Frog Life Cycle Craft

**Materials Needed:**
See Appendix H

Follow the directions in Appendix H to complete the frog life cycle paper plate craft. This is a quick and easy craft that even preschoolers can complete with little to no adult help.

**Lesson 8:**
Assessment

**Materials Needed:**
- Frog Life Cycle graphic organizers (Appendix I)

Have students show what they have learned during this unit by completing one of the graphic organizers, drawing/writing in what they know about the frog life cycle. Note that there are 3 different options - 1 for just pictures, 1 for pictures and a label with each picture, and 1 for pictures and a sentence for each picture.
Appendix A
Recommended Resources
Suggested Texts & Websites

Books:
- From Tadpole to Frog, by Wendy Pfeffer
- The Life Cycle of a Frog, by Bobbie Kalman
- Life Cycle of a Frog, by Angela Royston
- The Life Cycle of a Poison Dart Frog, by Anna Kingston
- From Tadpole to Frog, by Suzanne Slade
- Frog, by Louise Spilsbury
- Frogs and Toads and Tadpoles, Too, by Allan Fowler
- Frogs, by Gail Gibbons
- Frogs, by David Badger
- Jump, Frog, Jump!, by Robert Kalan
- A Frog in the Bog, by Karma Wilson
- The Icky Sticky Frog, by Dawn Bentley
- Frog and Toad All Year, by Arnold Lobel

Websites:

Sequencing game for frog life cycle:
http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/scienceforkids/life_cycle/frog_lifecycle.htm

Sesame Street animation of the frog life cycle (short video):
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ce5_Vk_yNcY

Facts about frogs:
http://www.kidzone.ws/lw/frogs/facts3.htm

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Appendix B
Picture of a Tadpole
Appendix C
Frog Life Cycle Poster
(Color and B&W options)
The Frog Life Cycle
The Frog Life Cycle
Appendix D
Frog Observation Journals

2 different options included
(cut down the middle and staple to assemble)
My Frog Observation Journal

By:

I see _____________

___________________

___________________
I see _____________
___________________
___________________
I see _____________
___________________
___________________
My Frog Observation Journal

By:

Draw what you see:

What has changed since your last observation?

__________________________

__________________________

__________________________
What has changed since your last observation?
Appendix E
Life Cycle Sequencing Worksheet
(Every child will need 1 mat for pasting and a half of a sheet with the pictures to cut out)
The Frog Life Cycle

Glue down the pictures in order.
Appendix F
Comparing Frogs and Tadpoles Venn Diagram
Comparing the Body Parts of Tadpoles and Frogs

What body parts do tadpoles have?

What body parts do frogs have?

What body parts do they both have?

Name: ___________________
Appendix G

“Tadpole Blues” Lyrics
Tadpole Blues (by Peter Combe)

Yesterday I had a body and a tail
A body and a tail, body and a tail
Yesterday I had a body and a tail
Today I've got two legs as well

What is happening to me
Whatever can it be
I'm not very happy and that's because
I liked the way I was

Well blow me down, it's happenin' again
Happenin' again, happenin' again
Blow me down, it's happenin' again
There's two legs growing at the front as well

What is happening to me
Whatever can it be
I'm not very happy and that's because
I liked the way I was

Uh oh, what's going on, my tail is getting shor-orter
Tail is getting shor-orter, tail is getting shor-orter

What's going on, my tail is getting shor-orter
It's going, going, gone - oh no

What is happening to me
Whatever can it be
I'm not very happy and that's because
I liked the way I was

Well now I'm a frog and I've more or less got used to it
More or less got used to it, more or less got used to it
But sometimes a tadpole swims up to have a quiet chat
And I know what he's going to say

What is happening to me
Whatever can it be
I'm not very happy and that's because
I liked the way I was

Now listen - it's really rather nice to be a frog
And live at the bottom of a bog
So don't be concerned or worry about a thing
Appendix H
Frog Life Cycle Craft
Frog Life Cycle

Craft Instructions

Each child will need:

1 paper plate
1 black marker
The cutouts on the next page (optional - you can also have your students draw the life cycle stages)
Scissors
Any kind of glue

*Please see the photographs and steps on the following pages.*
1. Cut out the pictures (or draw your own) and glue them down to the paper plate. Start with the eggs at the top and move clockwise.

2. Number and/or label the stages, and draw arrows. Your paper plate craft is complete!
Appendix I
Frog Life Cycle Graphic Organizers
(3 different options included - note that the last one consists of 2 different sheets)
The Frog Life Cycle

Draw each stage in the frog life cycle.

1.

2.

3.

4.
The Frog Life Cycle

Draw and label each stage in the frog life cycle.
The Frog Life Cycle (p. 1 of 2)

Draw each stage in the frog life cycle.

Write a sentence about each stage using the lined paper.
The Frog Life Cycle (page 2 of 2)

Write a sentence about each stage in the frog life cycle to go with the pictures you drew.

1. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

2. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

3. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

4. ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________
Appendix J
List of Centers Ideas
Centers Options

1. **Reading Center:** Use the leveled books in Appendix K as an independent reading center, or use them for guided reading. 4 different levels are included. Simply print, cut, and staple the books – no folding required.

2. **Writing Center:** Print, laminate, cut, and place the vocabulary cards from Appendix L on a binder ring. Students can use them to write about the frog life cycle in the writing center.

3. **Math Board Games:** Choose a math board game from Appendix M (2 different games included for differentiation). Teach students how to play in a small group, and then set it up as a small group math center.

4. **Vocabulary Puzzles:** Print and cut the vocabulary puzzles in Appendix N (choose the cards that best fit your students’ needs). In a center, students can practice matching the cards together.
How Frogs Grow

Look at the eggs.

Look at the tadpole.

Look at the legs.

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Look at the froglet.

Look at the frog.

Look! More eggs!

Look! More tadpoles!
How Frogs Grow

Look at the eggs.

Look at the tadpole.

Look at the legs.

© 2013, 2017 Learning At The Primary Pond
Look at the froglet.

Look at the frog.

Look! More eggs!

Look! More tadpoles!
How Frogs Grow

These are frog eggs.

This is a tadpole.

The tadpole grows legs.
Now it is a froglet.

The new frog will lay eggs, too.

Last, it is a frog.

More tadpoles hatch!
How Frogs Grow

These are frog eggs.

This is a tadpole.

The tadpole grows legs.
Now it is a froglet.

More tadpoles hatch!

The new frog will lay eggs, too.

Last, it is a frog.

More tadpoles hatch!
The Life Cycle of a Frog

A frog lays eggs in the water.

Tadpoles come out of the eggs.

The tadpoles start to grow legs.

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Now the tadpoles have four legs. They are froglets.

The frogs are all grown up!

They will soon lay their own eggs.

New tadpoles will hatch. The life cycle starts again!
The Life Cycle of a Frog

A frog lays eggs in the water.

Tadpoles come out of the eggs.

The tadpoles start to grow legs.
Now the tadpoles have four legs. They are froglets.

The frogs are all grown up!

They will soon lay their own eggs.

New tadpoles will hatch. The life cycle starts again!
The Life Cycle of a Frog

A female frog lays its eggs in the water.

Tadpoles hatch from the tiny eggs.

In time, the back legs of the tadpoles start to grow.
When the tadpoles have four legs, they are called froglets.

Now the tadpoles are adult frogs!

Adult frogs will lay their own eggs in the water.

New tadpoles will hatch, and the life cycle begins again!
The Life Cycle of a Frog

A female frog lays its eggs in the water.

Tadpoles hatch from the tiny eggs.

In time, the back legs of the tadpoles start to grow.
When the tadpoles have four legs, they are called froglets.

Adult frogs will lay their own eggs in the water.

Now the tadpoles are adult frogs!

New tadpoles will hatch, and the life cycle begins again!
The Life Cycle of a Frog

Female frogs lay their eggs in the water. The eggs are soft, like jelly. The eggs have black centers.

Tadpoles hatch from the eggs. The tadpoles swim around. They eat plants in the water.

The tadpoles’ bodies change as they grow. First, the tadpoles grow back legs.
Next, the tadpoles’ front legs grow. Now they are called froglets.

The tadpoles keep growing and become adult frogs. Adult frogs live on the land and in the water.

In time, adult frogs will lay their own eggs in the water.

New tadpoles will hatch from the eggs, and the life cycle begins again!
Female frogs lay their eggs in the water. The eggs are soft, like jelly. The eggs have black centers.

Tadpoles hatch from the eggs. The tadpoles swim around. They eat plants in the water. The tadpoles’ bodies change as they grow. First, the tadpoles grow back legs.
Next, the tadpoles’ front legs grow. Now they are called froglets.

The tadpoles keep growing and become adult frogs. Adult frogs live on the land and in the water.

In time, adult frogs will lay their own eggs in the water.

New tadpoles will hatch from the eggs, and the life cycle begins again!
Appendix L
Printable Vocabulary Cards
Vocabulary Cards

eggs  tadpole  froglet

adult frog  lilypad
Vocabulary Cards

- eggs
- tadpole
- froglet
- adult frog
- lilypad
eggs
tadpole
froglet
adult frog
lilypad
eggs
tadpole
froglet
adult frog
lilypad
Appendix M
Math Board Games
Board Game #1
for Preschool / Kindergarten

Students can play in small groups of 2-4 players.

Materials Needed:
Game board #1
Cut out frog number cards
Cut out frog game pieces

To play, a student pulls a frog number card. She moves her playing piece that many places forward on the board and follows any directions on the space landed on. The first player to reach the finish line is the winner. (If you run out of cards before someone wins, reshuffle and reuse the cards.)
Playing Pieces

Cut these out, laminate them, and use them with any or all of the board games. Or, use your own if these are too tricky for your students to pick up and move. Different colored cubes work well as playing pieces.
Frog Number Cards, p. 1 of 2

1 2 3 4

5 1 2 3

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Playing Pieces

Cut these out, laminate them, and use them with any or all of the board games. Or, use your own if these are too tricky for your students to pick up and move. Different colored cubes work well as playing pieces.
Board Game #2
for Kindergarten / 1st grade

Students can play in small groups of 2-4 players.

Materials Needed:
Game board #2
Cut out frog addition and subtraction cards (Set #1)
Cut out frog game pieces

To play, a student pulls a frog number card. She solves the addition or subtraction card, and then finds the next space with that sum or difference to move her piece to. For example, if a child pulls the card 5-2, she looks for the next space with the number “3” to move her playing piece to. The first child to reach the finish line (by passing it) is the winner.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Equation</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1+1=</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>1+2=</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1+3=</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1+4=</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2+2=</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2+3=</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>1+0=</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>2+0=</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>3+0=</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>4+0=</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5+0=</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0+0=</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>Card 1</td>
<td>Card 2</td>
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<td>1 - 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 - 2</td>
<td>3 - 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Frog Addition & Subtraction Cards (Set 1, p. 1)

1+1=
1+2=
1+3=
1+4=

2+2=
2+3=
1+0=
2+0=

3+0=
4+0=
5+0=
0+0=
Board Game #2
for Kindergarten / 1st grade

Students can play in small groups of 2-4 players.

Materials Needed:
  Game board #3
  Cut out frog addition and subtraction cards (Set #2)
  Cut out frog game pieces

To play, a student pulls a frog number card. She solves the addition or subtraction card, and then finds the next space with that sum or difference to move her piece to. For example, if a child pulls the card 8-2, she looks for the next space with the number “6” to move her playing piece to. The first child to reach the finish line (by passing it) is the winner.
Frog Addition & Subtraction Cards (Set 1, p. 1)

3+3=
3+4=
3+5=
3+6=

3+7=
4+4=
4+5=
4+6=

5+5=
6+0=
6+1=
6+2=
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<th>Equation</th>
<th>Equation</th>
<th>Equation</th>
<th>Equation</th>
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<td>10 - 4 =</td>
<td>10 - 3 =</td>
<td>10 - 2 =</td>
<td>10 - 1 =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 - 0 =</td>
<td>9 - 3 =</td>
<td>9 - 2 =</td>
<td>9 - 1 =</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 - 0 =</td>
<td>8 - 2 =</td>
<td>8 - 1 =</td>
<td>8 - 0 =</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Frog Addition & Subtraction Cards (Set 1, p. 2)

10 - 4 = 
10 - 3 = 
10 - 2 = 
10 - 1 = 

10 - 0 = 
9 - 3 = 
9 - 2 = 
9 - 1 = 

9 - 0 = 
8 - 2 = 
8 - 1 = 
8 - 0 =
Appendix N
Vocabulary Puzzles
(3 different sets included)
Set I

eggs  tadpole

froglet  adult frog

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A frog lays eggs in the water. Tadpoles come out of the eggs. The tadpoles grow legs. They are now adult frogs!
Female frogs lay their eggs in the water.

Tadpoles hatch from the eggs.

The tadpoles grow back legs first.

The tadpoles then grow their front legs. They are now froglets.

Set 3

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When they are fully grown, they are called adult frogs.
Set 1

eggs

tadpole

froglet

adult frog
Set 2

A frog lays eggs in the water.

Tadpoles come out of the eggs.

The tadpoles grow legs.

They are now adult frogs!
Female frogs lay their eggs in the water.

Tadpoles hatch from the eggs.

The tadpoles grow back legs first.

The tadpoles then grow their front legs. They are now froglets.
When they are fully grown, they are called adult frogs.
The Life Cycle of a Red Eyed Tree Frog

A Red Eyed Tree Frog lays 30 to 50 eggs at a time! She puts her eggs on a leaf. The leaf must be near the water. Inside the eggs, tiny tadpoles start to grow. They fall into the water when they are ready. The tadpoles can swim! They breathe underwater with their gills.

As the tadpoles grow, they begin to lose their tails. They grow legs. The tadpoles also grow lungs for breathing air. When they are small frogs, or froglets, they leave the water. They start living in the trees. Their skin turns green to keep them safe from animals that want to eat them!
Amphibians are animals that can live on land or in the water. They are born in the water. Amphibians can swim and breathe with gills. As they grow, they develop lungs. Their lungs allow them to breathe air, so they can begin to live on land.

Amphibians are cold-blooded. This means that their bodies become the temperature of the water or air around them.

Some examples of amphibians are frogs, toads, and salamanders.
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