

Frogs in the NWT

Objective: Learn to identify local frog and toad species, and understand why they are important.

Introduction: Due to their nature as an indicator species, the monitoring of frogs is important to help humans recognize potential threats to our environment and make changes as necessary. This lesson aims to introduce the idea of indicator species and to help make students aware of local frog and toad populations and their recognition.

Curriculum Connections:

Unit A: 1&4

Supplies / Materials:

- Map of frog/toad distribution in NWT
- Student journals / blank paper

Hook: Watch frog video e.g.

<http://ed.ted.com/lessons/disappearing-frogs-kerry-m-kriger>

Intro Activity: Discuss indicator species and their value. Look at the map of frog/toad distribution and determine which NWT frogs live closest to you. Are you aware of the existence of these frogs? Where around the community might you find them?



SCIENCE FOCUS

Lesson Subject

Science 9

Topic

Biodiversity

Location

Classroom with possibility of Field Study

Date:

Spring

Length

50 mins



Main Activity:

Students choose 2 species of frogs/toads to compare. Use those in your area if applicable. Compare based upon facts provided in info sheets at naturewatch.ca and answer the following questions: How are the species similar/different? In which habitats are they primarily found – if different what would you think is the predominant species based on the landscape where you live? What are some of its adaptations to a Northern Climate?

Independent Student Work: Sketches of 2 frogs or toads including notes on how to identify species (field journal).

Conclusion / Review: Why are frogs and toads important to us? How can scientists (including ourselves) monitor levels?

Homework: Research the sensitivity of one of the species of frogs (or frogs in general) to climate change. Brainstorm strategies to minimize the impacts.

Resources:

1. Map: <http://www.nwtpas.ca/maps/map-sf-amphibians-pas-areas.pdf>
2. Frogwatch: <https://www.naturewatch.ca/frogwatch/northwest-territories/>

Extension:

1. Have students investigate reproductive strategies of a frog species. Brainstorm human activities that could detract and enhance these strategies.
2. Have students submit Frog watch observations
3. Further lessons about frogs: https://www.naturewatch.ca/wp-content/biguploads/senior_guide_712.pdf