

Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Explain Information

Read the short story and answer each question.



Leap into Life — The Journey of a Frog

Frogs are amazing animals with one of the most dramatic life cycles in the animal kingdom. They don't start out looking anything like the adults we're used to seeing. In fact, their bodies change completely as they grow. Each step in a frog's life happens for a reason—to help it survive in water and on land.

Stage 1: Egg

A frog's life begins when its eggs are laid in water. The jelly-like eggs protect the growing tadpoles inside. This watery environment is safe for the first part of their life.

Stage 2: Tadpole

When the eggs hatch, tadpoles emerge. At this stage, they look more like fish than frogs. Tadpoles have tails and gills, which allow them to swim and breathe underwater. Their main goal is to eat and grow.

Stage 3: Tadpole with Legs

After a few weeks, the tadpoles begin to grow legs. Their bodies start to change. This is the beginning of **metamorphosis**, a special process that turns them into adult frogs. The legs help them start preparing for life on land.

Stage 4: Froglet

Next, tadpoles lose their gills and grow lungs. Their tails begin to shrink. Now they can hop onto land and breathe air, but many still stay near water. This stage helps them adjust to a new environment.

Stage 5: Adult Frog

Once fully grown, the frog has strong legs, lungs, and smooth skin. Adult frogs can live in water and on land. They return to ponds or wetlands to lay eggs—and the cycle begins again.

Each step of a frog's life prepares it for the next, helping it survive in two very different worlds.



Name: _____

Leap into Life — The Journey of a Frog

1. What is the purpose of a frog having gills during the tadpole stage?

- A. To help it breathe underwater while it grows
- B. To help it jump high in the air
- C. To let it sleep for a long time
- D. To make its tail grow faster

2. Why do frogs go through metamorphosis?

- A. To grow bigger legs for swimming
- B. To change from a fish to an insect
- C. To develop the body parts needed to live both on land and in water
- D. To stay in the water their whole lives

3. Fill in the blank:

During metamorphosis, a tadpole grows _____ and lungs to help it become a frog that can live on land.

4. Choose two stages of a frog's life cycle and explain what happens and why it matters for survival.

5. Summarize the full life cycle of a frog in 3-4 sentences, using the most important details.



Instructional Guide

Guide Reading Level: Q

Lexile Level: 735L-885L

Grade Level: 4th Grade, Beginning of the Year

Genre: Informational Nonfiction – Scientific Life Cycle

Introducing the Text

“Today we’ll read about frogs and the incredible way they grow up. As we go through each stage of the frog’s life cycle, we’ll pay attention to what happens and why those changes are important. We’ll also learn how each stage helps frogs survive in water and on land.”

Vocabulary: tadpole, metamorphosis, gills, lungs, froglet

Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you already know about frogs or how they grow?
 2. Why might it be important for animals to change as they grow?
 3. What environments do frogs live in?
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During Reading Discussion Questions

1. Why are eggs laid in water instead of on land?
 2. What’s the difference between a tadpole and a froglet?
 3. What new abilities does the frog have as it grows?
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After Reading Discussion Questions

1. How does each stage help the frog survive better than the one before?
 2. Why do scientists study animal life cycles?
 3. How would you explain the life cycle of a frog to a younger student?
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Activity Idea

Have students create a life cycle wheel with five labeled sections: egg, tadpole, tadpole with legs, froglet, and adult frog. In each section, they draw the stage and write what happens and why it matters. Then they use the wheel to orally summarize the process, practicing clear explanation.

