

Frog Calls

Summary

In this activity, we will be using some simple materials to mimic the call of a frog. Frogs will vocalize to attract a mate, and depending on the species, the call will vary. How will our sounds mimic compare to a real frog call?

Materials

- Plastic cup
- Rubber band
- Latex Balloon
- Glass marbles (2)
- Plastic straw
- Scissors
- Water

Steps to Follow *(All activities must be done with adult supervision)*

Gray Treefrog & American Toad

1. Use your scissors to cut the end a plastic straw into a point, or triangle shape.
2. Place the triangle end of the straw into your mouth and press your lips down.
3. Blow air through your lips into the straw until you hear a buzzing sound, this is our Gray Treefrog.
 - a. *This can be tricky to learn, so experiment with the place of the straw, the amount of force you push down with you lips, and the amount of air you are blowing.*
4. Use your scissors to cut the same straw in half or use a separate one with the same triangle cut end.
5. Place the triangle end of the straw in your mouth again and try to recreate the buzzing sound affect.
 - a. *Did it sound different?*

Northern Cricket Frog

1. Hold a marble in each hand.
2. Click the marbles together to produce a sound.

American Bullfrog

1. Blow up a balloon and tie it off.
2. Fill a plastic cup with water.
3. Wet your fingers and slowly rub them across the surface of the balloon.

What is sound?

- *Sound is a form of energy and it can occur when an object moves back and forth rapidly. Objects/materials will vibrate differently producing sound waves that travel through the air to your ears.*
- *In the straw activity, the pointed ends move rapidly as you force air through the straw. Cutting the straw shorter and shorter each time will produce a sound with a different pitch as there is less space for the sound waves to travel.*

What is an amphibian, and can you name some others besides frogs?

- *Amphibians are animals that have adapted to living in water and then on land during their life cycle.*
- *Frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts are examples that you may see outside or in the museum.*