

Amphibians Research Activities



*Use the internet to research interesting facts about amphibians.

* Use the internet to research the reasons for recent declines in amphibian populations.

* Use the internet to research endangered and extinct amphibians.

* Print Studyladder worksheets to help guide your research.



Research Activity 1

Frog Research

Name: _____
Date: _____

Species: _____
Habitat: _____
Environment: _____
Description: _____
Interesting Facts: _____

Salamander Research

Name: _____
Date: _____

Species: _____
Habitat: _____
Environment: _____
Description: _____
Interesting Facts: _____

Caecilians Research

Name: _____
Date: _____

Species: _____
Habitat: _____
Environment: _____
Description: _____
Interesting Facts: _____



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Choose one of these interesting amphibian species to research.

Golden Poison Frog (Phyllobates terribilis)	Harlequin Frog (Atelopus varius)	Chinese Giant Salamander (Andrias davidianus)
Archey's Frog (Leiopelma archery)	Corroboree Frog (Pseudophryne corroboree)	Taylor's Salamander (ambystoma taylori)
Green Gastric Brooding Frog (Rhinoderma darwini)	Darwin's Frog (Rhinoderma darwini)	Axolotl (ambystoma mexicanum)
Red Leaf Frog (Microhyla moreletii)	Hula Painted Frog (Discoglossus nigriventer)	Sagalla Caecilian (Boulengerula niedeni)
Hellbender (Cryptobranchus alleganiensis)	Olm (Proteus anginus)	Luschan's Salamander (Lyciasalamandra billae)

- * Print these worksheets.
- * Use the internet to research some of these interesting amphibian species.
- * Choose the appropriate worksheet to present your information.

Choose one of these interesting amphibian species to research.

Golden Poison Frog
(*Phylllobates terribilis*)

Harlequin Frog
(*Atelopus varius*)

Chinese Giant Salamander
(*Andrias davidianus*)

Archey's Frog
(*Leiopelma archery*)

Corroboree Frog
(*Pseudophryne corroboree*)

Taylor's Salamander
(*ambystoma taylori*)

Southern Gastric Brooding Frog
(*Rheobatrachus silus*)

Darwin's Frog
(*Rhinoderma darwinii*)

Axolotyl
(*ambystoma mexicanum*)

Morelet's Leaf Frog
(*Agalychnis moreletii*)

Hula Painted Frog
(*Discoglossus nigriventer*)

Sagalla Caecilian
(*Boulengerula niedeni*)

Goliath Frog
(*Conraua goliath*)

Olm
(*Proteus anginus*)

Luschan's Salamander
(*Lyciasalamandra billae*)

Endangered and Extinct Amphibians

Name:

Date:

Where did the following, most likely extinct, species of amphibians live?

Golden Toad, last seen in 1989 in _____

Gastric Brooding Frog, last seen in 1985 in _____

Mesopotamia Beaked Toad, last seen in 1914 in _____

Jackson's Climbing Salamander, last seen in 1975 in _____

African Painted Frog, last seen in 1950 in _____

The greatest threat to amphibian species is habitat loss due to human activities. What human activities affect the amphibian population?

Which diseases were responsible for a rapid decline in amphibian populations in many parts of the world during the 1980s and 1990s?

Populations of amphibians are declining at an alarming rate world wide. What recommendations would you make to stop this trend?

Research Activity 2

* Print this worksheet about endangered and extinct amphibians.

* Read the information (on the following slide) about viral and fungal diseases that affect amphibians.

* Use the internet to find information about extinct amphibians.



Viral and Fungal Diseases Affect Amphibians World-Wide

Amphibians are the most threatened of all vertebrates. According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) 41% of all amphibians already face extinction. So outbreaks of deadly strains of viral and fungal diseases make their future look quite bleak.

Outbreaks of a virus called Ranavirus, which affects cold blooded animals such as amphibians and fish, were first recorded in the 1980s. The virus is responsible for declines in amphibian population in the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Canada.

Outbreaks have also been detected in Europe and Australia.

In 2014, suspected new strains of Ranavirus were thought to be responsible for deadly outbreaks of disease that killed frogs, toads and newt species in Northern Spain.

Widespread mortality of amphibians has also been caused by a type of chytrid fungus. Outbreaks of chytridiomycosis (disease caused by chytrid fungus) were first noticed in the early 1990s. A new strain called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd) was detected in 1996.

Since then Bd has spread to all continents with populations of amphibians.

Chytridiomycosis can be treated with application of antifungal cream. However this is not a practical treatment for the wild population.

Chytridiomycosis is thought to be responsible for the rapid decline of some amphibian populations. This includes the probable extinction of the Northern species of Darwin's Frog (*Rhinoderma rufum*) as well as the rapid decline of the Southern species of Darwin's Frog (*Rhinoderma darwinii*).