



Frog Calls



Raccoon Creek Explorers Activity #18

Supplies:

- Your ears
- Stop watch
- Paper
- Writing utensil
- Access to the internet on a device with speakers
- Frog call sounds
 - <http://www.ohioamphibians.com/frogs/frogspecies.html>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aejUzZ3pVRQ>



Vocabulary:

Qualitative data: measures of 'types' and may be represented by a name, symbol, or a number code

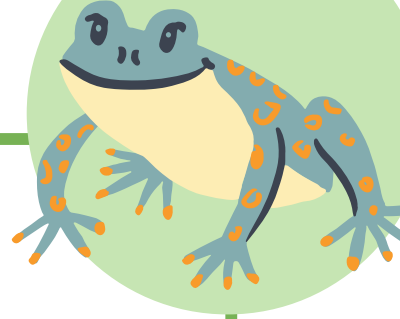
Quantitative data: measures of values or counts and are expressed as numbers

Ephemeral ponds: Also called vernal pools, are seasonal bodies of water that appear in the spring as snow melts and high rainfall of the spring starts.

Background:

Science can be conducted in multiple ways, a lot of the time people think that science has to involve experimentation, however much can be understood about the world by just observing something around you. Observational data is qualitative where as numerical data is quantitative.

One way we can use observation to conduct science is through listening to animal calls. In this activity we will observe the different sounds frogs make in nature. There are 15 species of frogs in Ohio in 4 families, each having their own unique call. Depending on the species, some frogs and toads may begin calling in late February and continue into early fall. The most notable places to hear frog calls are in shallow areas such as, flooded ditches, creeks, rivers and their back waters, swamps, farm ponds, ephemeral ponds, flooded fields, lakes or wetlands. These areas are good breeding grounds to lay eggs. Identifying the location and time of year a frog is calling in can help us to understand more about their breeding habits from year to year.



Let's Get Started:

- 1.) Review the 2 links above. They tell you about all the different frogs found in Ohio and give you sound bites of the call each frog makes.
- 2.) Go outside at night in a safe area where there is some kind of water body where you hear frogs calling
- 3.) Start a timer for 3 minutes
- 4.) During the 3 minutes be as quiet as possible and listen to the frog sounds that you hear. **Hint:** cup your hand around your ears to hear better.
- 5.) Write down what type of frogs you hear and how many of each. If there are too many frogs to count write "chorus"

Reflect:

Name some of the frogs you heard

Where you able to figure out what each call was? (It is okay if not, it takes practice)

Was there only one type of frog calling or multiple different types?

Apply:

What kind of frogs do you expect to hear calling in early spring as opposed to later in the year?

Describe what the frog calls sound like (ex: green frogs sound like loose banjo strings)

What is the weather like? Is it warm, cold, rainy or clear? Does the weather influence what species are calling or if any are calling at all?

Wrap-Up:

Now that you have learned the frogs in Ohio and what sounds they make, try going to different location to listen to frogs or observe the new sounds you may hear from month to month at one location. As we learned, some frog species call at different times of the year, so you may hear one frog in March, but a different kind you didn't hear before in June. Typically a frog will return to the same spawning ground as the year before. Once a frog has spawned they may move on to find other habitat.

