



Grades 2-7

Amphibians

Unit Study



A Journey Through Learning
www.ajourneythroughlearning.com

Authors: Paula Winget and Nancy Filencia
Copyright 2009

Can be copied for members of your household only.
For group use, please see our website to purchase a classroom/co-op
license

Visit our website at:
www.ajourneythroughlearning.com

While there, sign up for our email newsletter and receive a FREE lapbook!
You'll also receive great discount codes, special offers, and find out
what's new and what's to come!

Join us on Facebook and Twitter!

Clipart is from Art Explosion 800,000 and
www.clipart.com with permission

Thank you for purchasing from **A Journey Through Learning**. We hope that you enjoy our unit study entitled **Amphibians**. Getting started is easy.

First, take the time to just browse through the pages to familiarize yourself with the layout. In this book, you will find many topics.

Each topic has a(an):

- * information page
- *correlating activity pages
- *vocabulary words

Information Page

Each of the topics has an information page to read to your child.

Activity Page

After the information page has been read, it is time to do the activity that is found right after the information page. Some of these activities are more for fun while others are more challenging. All of them will enrich your child's understanding and knowledge of each topic.

Vocabulary Study

The underlined words are vocabulary words. Read each sentence that contains the vocabulary word very carefully. It is important that your child hear the vocabulary words in context. Ask your child if he/she can get the meaning of the word from listening to the sentence it is contained in. Next, turn to the vocabulary pages in the back of the book. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the word and write it on the lines provided. Vocabulary study increases your child's knowledge of the topic!

How Long Does it Take to Complete A Unit Study?

Doing a study guide page and an activity sheet a day, it should take about one month to complete. However, you can expand the study portion and make it last as long as you like! That's the beauty of homeschooling! Do it YOUR way!

Study Choices

Choice #1- Read the first page of the study guide. Then use the internet and fun children's books to learn more about the topic that is covered in that study guide. For instance-our American Indians Unit Study has a study guide page about Geronimo. Dig into Geronimo. There are probably lots of interesting things to learn about him that the study guide does not cover. Spend a day on Geronimo or spend a week! When your child has completed studying that particular topic, it will be time to do the activity sheet for that topic. The activity sheets are found right after the study guide page that it goes with.

Choice #2- Read only the study guide page and do the activity sheet that goes with it. The activity sheets are found right after the study guide page that it goes with. You may choose to do one study guide/activity sheet per day, two per day, two per week, three per week, etc. It doesn't matter. The pace is completely up to you. At one per day, it will take about a month to complete this unit study.

Tips and tricks to go the extra mile!

Supplies Need:

½ inch three-ring binder

8 tabs (if you are using our copywork and/or notebooking pages, you will need to have 10 tabs. Label with copywork and notebooking)

Your study guide and activity sheet pages

1. Label your tabs: Study Guide, Activity Sheets, Book Log, NICK, Biography Reports, Outlines, and Narration pages. (Copywork and Notebooking, if using these).
2. Make copies of NICK notes and outline forms and narration forms, put them behind the tabs. Your child can use either the NICK notes form (easier) or the outline form (a bit harder) after any of the study guides. The narration forms also come in two levels. Choose the correct level for your child. These serve as a good way for your child to show what they have learned.
3. Hole punch your study guide and activity sheets and place behind the correct tab. You will read a page of a study guide. Behind the study guide are all of the activities that go with that study guide.

Table of Contents

What are Amphibians?
The Defense Mechanisms of Amphibians
The Order of Amphibians
The Life Cycle of a Frog
What is a Food Chain?
The Amphibian Food Chain
Amphibian Habitat
The Amazing World of Tadpoles!
The Diet of Frogs and Toads
The Characteristics of Frogs and Toads
What are Frogs?
What are Toads?
How are Frogs and Toads Different?
What are Salamanders?
What are Caecilians?

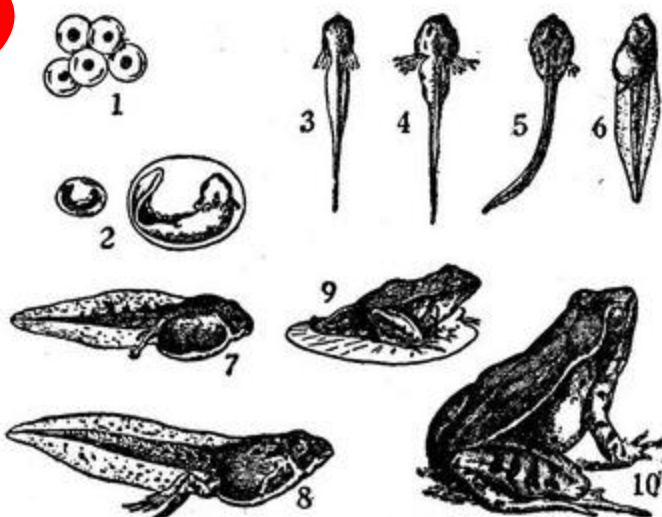


The Life Cycle of a Frog

Most amphibians begin their lives in the water as eggs. Eggs laid by amphibians are fertilized outside of the mother's body. The mother lays the eggs, and then the father immediately comes by and fertilizes them. Most eggs of an amphibian are round in shape. The top of the egg is usually darker than the bottom. The food for the developing baby amphibian is stored in the light-colored, lower portion of the egg.

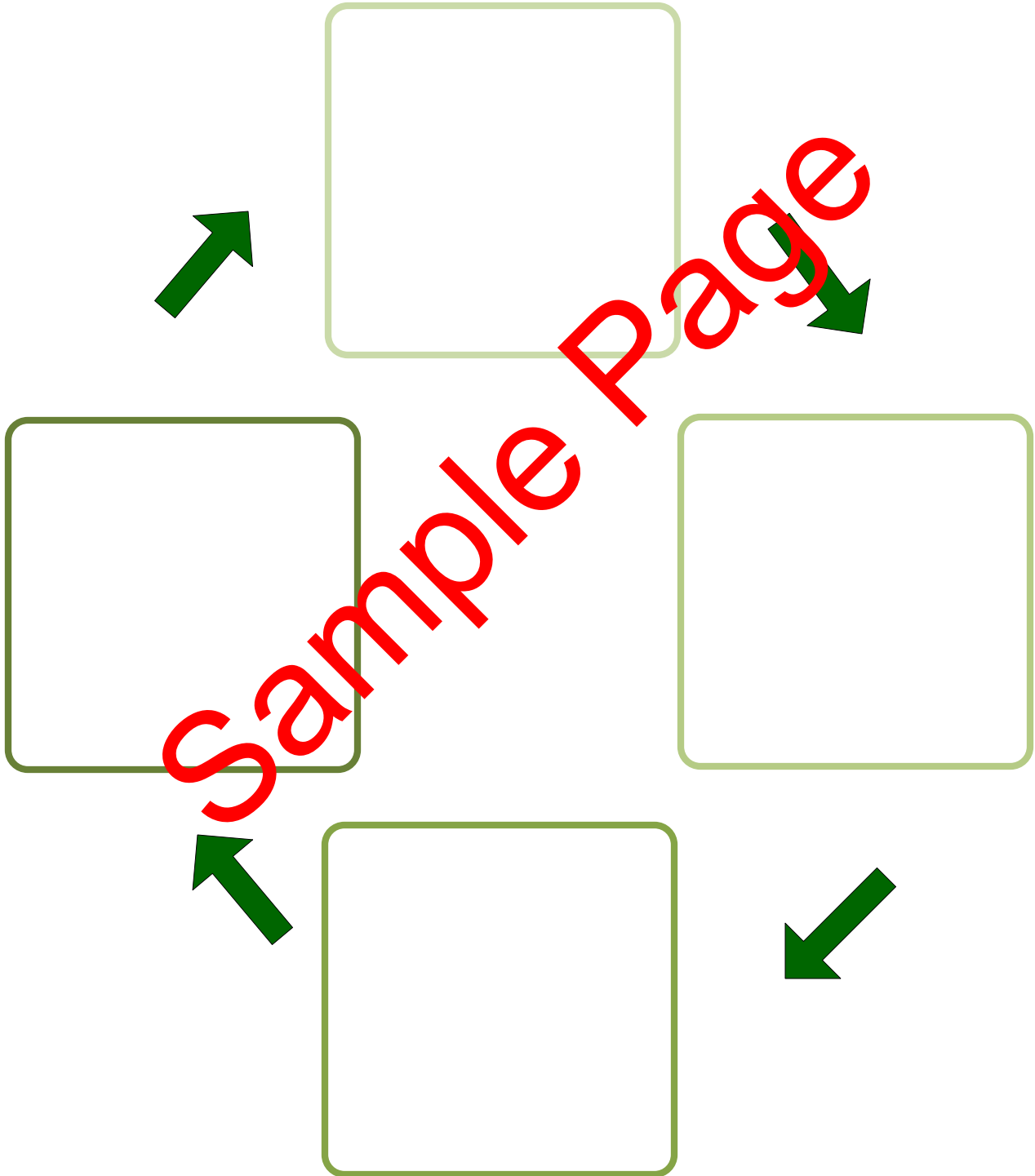
Once hatched, a transformation begins. This transformation process is called "metamorphosis." As metamorphosis progresses, the feeding and breathing habits—as well as the body shape—is altered. Amphibians change from gill breathers to breathing with their lungs. They also change from plant eaters to meat eaters. Depending on the species, metamorphosis lasts from several weeks to one year. The number and size of eggs varies, depending on the species of the amphibian. Some, like the American may lay thousands of eggs, while salamanders may only lay up to one hundred.

The shape and the way in which eggs are laid varies. Toads lay eggs in long strings, while frogs lay theirs in masses that look like bunches of grapes. Amphibian eggs do not have poisons to protect them from predators. The eggs themselves are encased in a jelly-like casing, which serves as a protective covering. The incubation period of the eggs varies among species but generally ranges from few days to a month.



Use with The Life Cycle of a Frog **study guide.** Draw frog eggs inside the top square. Draw a tadpole in the next square to the right. Draw a frog with a tail in the bottom square. Draw a frog without a tail in the last square.

Life Cycle of a Frog



Cut out the sentences on the next page. Choose the ones that describe characteristics of amphibians. Glue them into the square.

Is it an Amphibian?

Sample Page

Cut out the sentence strips. Choose the ones that describe characteristics of amphibians. Glue them into the square on the previous page.

They lay eggs in water.

They give birth to live babies.

They all have wings.

The babies live in water.

When they grow up, they live on land.

They have hair or fur.

They have four legs.

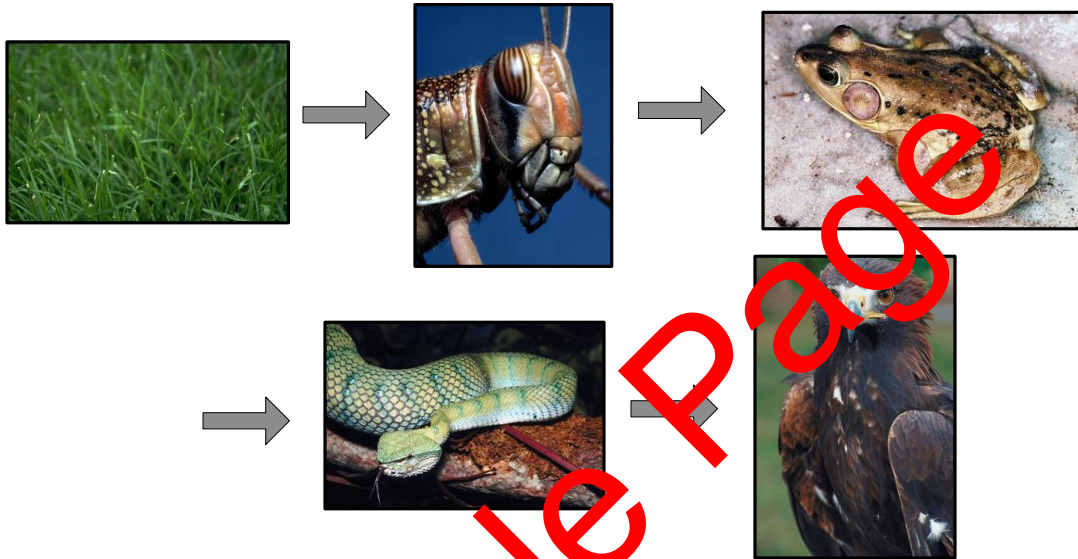
Most have wet, smooth skin.

When they grow up, they live in water.

Their babies live only on land.

What is a Food Chain?

All living things need food to give them energy to grow and move. A food chain shows how each living thing gets its food. **It shows what is eating what.** The arrow means "is eaten by" .



Grass is eaten by the grasshopper . . . which is eaten by the toad . . . which is eaten by the snake . . . which is eaten by the hawk.

A food chain always begins with some type of plant. Plants are producers. These are eaten by an animal. The animal is the consumer in the food chain. All food chains end with a predator. The most important item in all of the above is the sun. Without the sun, there would be no living plants. Without plants, there would be no animals.

The Amphibian Food Chain

Life as we know it could not exist with the “circle of life.” Amphibians play an important role in completing this cycle. Animals generally fall into categories that define their roles in the world. You are either prey or predator—or often both.

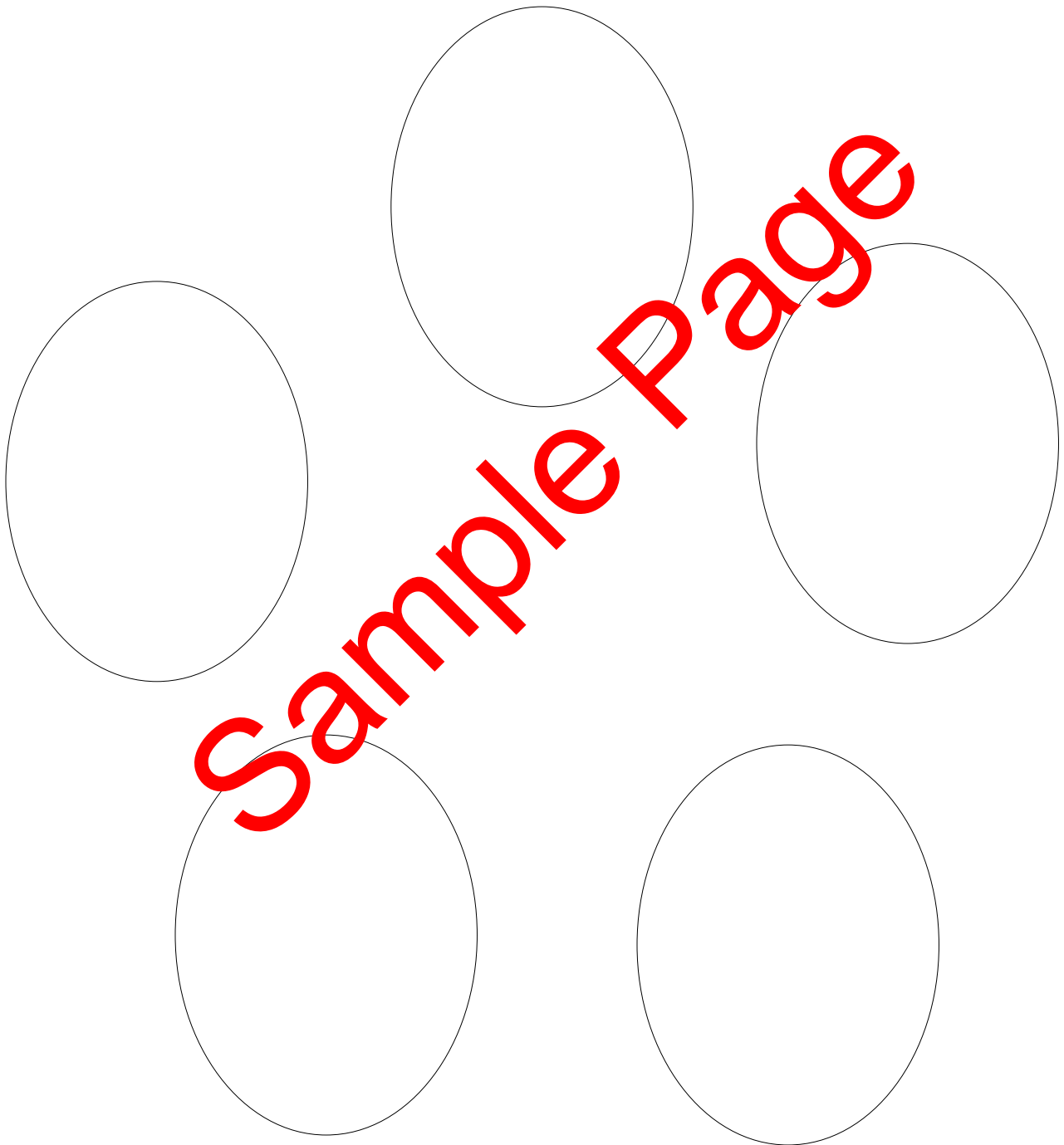
Herbivores- Animals that eat only plants. They are often relegated to the role of prey.

Carnivores-Animals that eat only meat. They are often relegated to the role of predator.

Omnivores- Animals that eat plants and meat. Omnivores can be both prey and predator.

In the water, frogs and salamanders eat large amounts of zooplankton, algae, and insects. They, in turn, may be eaten by larger insects, turtles, fish, snakes, and birds. On land, certain snakes prey on small rodents in fields and around farms. Other kinds of snakes eat a lot of worms and bugs. These snakes, in turn, are preyed upon by hawks, foxes, and raccoons. Everything in life relies on something below it. In order for life to balance out, some animals must be eaten so that others may live. Yet, in spite of this, amphibians have managed to survive.

Use with **What is a Food Chain** and **The Amphibian Food Chain** study guide. Use the internet or books to find pictures to create a food chain. Glue the pictures in the correct order. Between each circle, draw an arrow. The arrow means "eaten by."

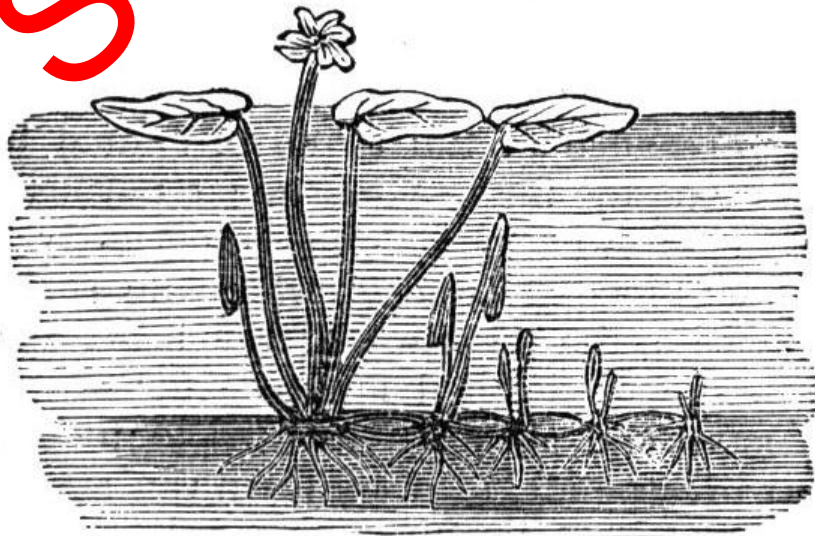


Amphibian Habitats

Amphibians require both aquatic (water) and terrestrial (land) habitats to survive. Aquatic amphibians have gills that allow them to take oxygen from the water. Terrestrial amphibians have cutaneous (through the skin) breathing to survive on land.

About 4,000 amphibian species depend on freshwater habitats during some stage of their life cycle. Aquatic habitats must have adequate covering to protect them from predators. Rocks, mud, and fallen trees allow places for these small animals to burrow and hide. Water supplies should also have lots of plants and algae for feeding.

Terrestrial amphibians make their homes in mostly damp environments because their skins cannot function as a respiratory surface if it becomes dry. This is also the reason that most amphibians are nocturnal and are active during the wet season. Most can be found living in chestnut-oak-hickory forests, wetlands, and prairies.



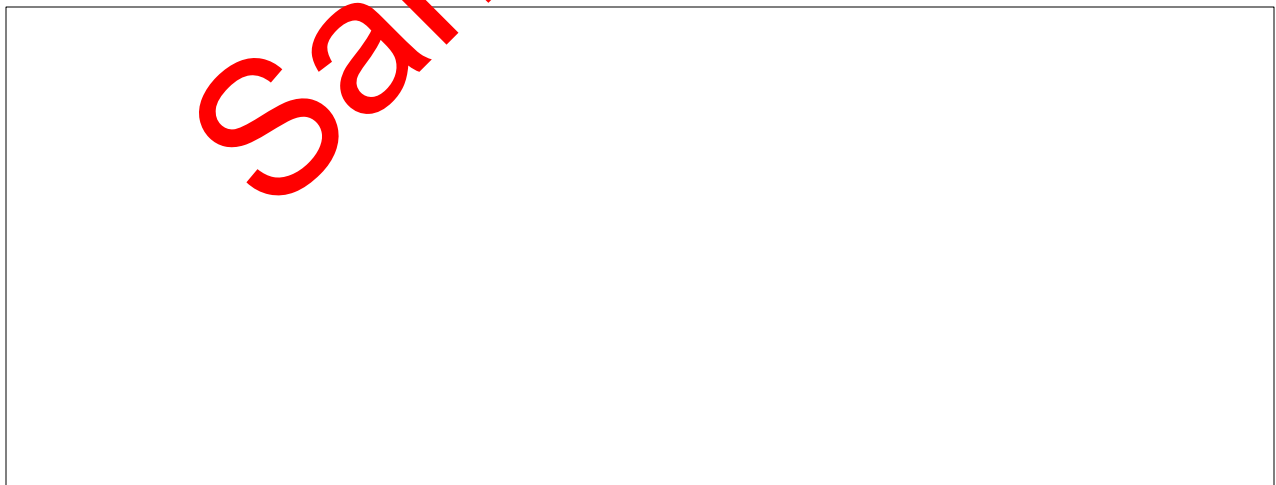
Use with **Amphibian Habitats** study guide. In each of the boxes, draw a habitat scene. Draw amphibians that would live there.

What are the two things amphibians need in order to survive?

Aquatic



Terrestrial



Sample Page

Cut out the labels from the bottom. Glue the correct labels on the frog.

Label the frog



Bulging
Eyes

Webbed
Toes

Powerful
Hind
Legs