

Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style) Reading Comprehension Booklet 6



Name.....

Useful words

amphibians

metamorphosis

carnivores

predators

mosquitoes

eardrum

Frogs



Frogs belong to a group of animals called amphibians (meaning two-lives). Frogs begin their lives in the water as eggs and then tadpoles and when they are fully developed they live on land.

Questions

1 What does the word **amphibian** mean?

2 How do frogs begin their lives?

Tick one.

in the water as eggs

in the water as frogs

in the water as tadpoles

in the water as amphibians

Frogs are cold-blooded which means that their bodies are the same temperature as the air or water around them. When they are cold they will lay in the sun to warm up and when they get too warm they will go into the water to cool their bodies off.

3 What does "cold-blooded" mean?

4 How do frogs warm themselves up and cool themselves down?

Frogs begin their lives as tadpoles that are hatched in the water from tiny jelly-covered eggs. The mother frog will lay thousands of eggs at one time.

The jelly has an awful taste, which protects the eggs from predators until they are ready to hatch.

Tadpoles are born with gills, just like a fish, so that they can breathe under water. They have a big head and a long tail. They definitely do not look like frogs, yet! Tadpoles have a tough life. It's a good thing they are fast swimmers because they have to escape the many other creatures that hunt them in the pond. They are a favourite food of fish and water beetles.

5 Why does the jelly which covers the eggs have an awful taste?

6 Tadpoles are a favourite food of which creatures?

Tick **two**.

fish

mice

dolphins

eagles

water beetles

cats

Metamorphosis is the change in body shape during an animal's life. During metamorphosis the tadpole will develop back legs first, then front legs. After around 6 weeks, the mouth starts to widen. When the tadpole is 10 weeks old, it is called a froglet. At this time its eyes start to bulge out and the tail begins to shrink. When the lungs finish developing the froglet makes its way onto the land and, Ta-da! It's a frog!



7 What is metamorphosis?

Tick **one**.

the change in diet in an animal's life

the change in body shape in an animal's life

the change in body colour in an animal's life

the change in behaviour an animal's life

8 When does a tadpole become a froglet?

Frogs are carnivores, which means that they eat meat.

Small to medium sized frogs eat insects such as flies, mosquitoes, moths and dragonflies. Larger frogs will eat larger insects like grasshoppers and worms.

Some large frogs will even eat small snakes, mice, baby turtles, and even other smaller frogs!

Frogs have very good eyesight. Their eyes bulge out of the sides of their heads enabling them to see in almost every direction.

Frogs also have an amazing sense of hearing. You can often tell the difference between a male and female frog by the size of its eardrum, which can be seen behind the eyes. If the eardrum is smaller than the eye, the frog is a female. On males the eardrum is the same size as the eye.

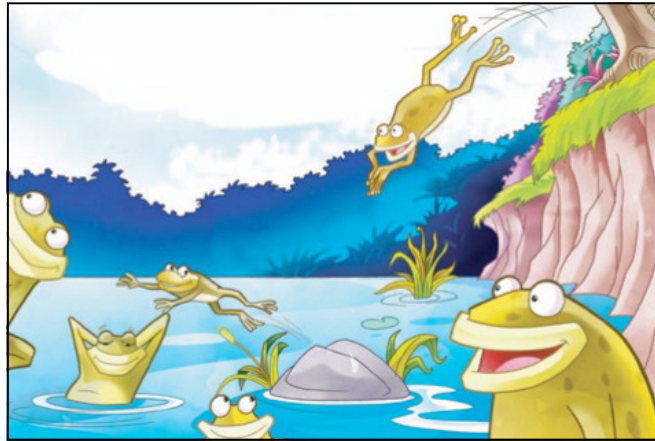
Frogs have very powerful back legs and webbed feet. These help them jump great distances and swim effectively. Certain frogs can jump up to 20 times their own body length in a single leap.

Every different species of frog has its own look. They come in many colours, patterns and sizes.

9 Which word describes an animal that eats meat?

10 Which part of a frog's body might help you tell whether it is male or female?

The Frogs who wanted a King



The frogs should have been as happy as could be. It was summer, they had plenty to eat and nothing much to do except play in the cool clear water of their pool. They should have been very happy indeed...but they weren't.

"Being a frog is rather boring actually," said one of the frogs.

"I agree. All we do is eat and swim." said another. "What's the point? Why are we here? Why can't life be more exciting?"

11 Why were the frogs unhappy?

"If only we had a leader," said a fat bullfrog. "If we had a leader he'd tell us what to do."

"That's right," said another frog. "If we had a leader he'd organise parties, plays, picnics and all manner of exciting things."

"Of course what we really need..." said the bullfrog, "...is a king."

The frogs all gasped. A king! Imagine! Their very own king with a crown on his head, giving orders and telling them all what to do.

12 How did the frogs think a leader would help them?

13 What did the bullfrog think was really needed?

Tick **one**.

a prince

a princess

a queen

a king

"So how do we get a king?" said one of the smaller frogs.

"To get a king," said the bullfrog, "you need to go to the top."

The frogs knew what the bullfrog meant. The king of all the Gods was called Jupiter. If you needed to go to the top you couldn't go any higher than Jupiter. Later that afternoon the frogs watched as the bullfrog climbed up onto a rock and cleared his throat.

"Excuse me," he shouted in his loudest voice. "Excuse me...Jupiter...we were wondering if we could have a king? Please!" said the bullfrog.

Jupiter was very busy and didn't want to be bothered but he knew that if he didn't give those frogs something they'd keep croaking on and on and on...so he said: "Alright! Enough! You want a king? Well have this one!"

14 Who was Jupiter?

Tick **one**.

the king of all the frogs

the king of all the world

the king of all the Gods

the king of all the heavens

15 Why did Jupiter decide to help the frogs.

Into the pond fell a huge log of wood.

"Wow!" said the littlest frog. "Look how big our king is!"

"He's enormous," said the bullfrog.

All day the frogs swam around their enormous king and waited for him to speak but the new king didn't say a word.

"He's a bit quiet for a king isn't he?" said the littlest frog.

"Yes," they all agreed. "He really is very quiet."

Days went past and the new king never said a word. In fact, he didn't even move and after a while, the frogs stopped thinking of him as a king and started using him as a diving platform and sunbathing area.

16 What did the frogs think was unusual about their new king?

17 How did the frogs start to use their new king?

"I don't think this king is much good to be honest," said one of the younger frogs.

"Yes," said somebody else. "Tell Jupiter that we frogs deserve a proper king who'll move about and be powerful and strong and frightening and..."

Now Jupiter was listening to all this and these noisy ungrateful frogs were making him very angry indeed. He lifted his right hand.

"You want a frightening king do you frogs?" he said. "Well try this one for size."

From out of the sky came a huge white stork, the biggest bird they'd ever seen. The frogs ran in terror as the stork started gobbling them up in his huge beak.

"Please, Lord Jupiter," said the bullfrog. "Save us. Take away this terrible king."

"Do you see now?" said Jupiter. "Better to have no king at all than a cruel one."

But the frogs weren't listening...they'd all disappeared.

The End

18 Why was Jupiter angry with the frogs?

19 What lesson can we learn from this story?
