

All About Amphibians

Grades PreK – Kindergarten
Educational Program Guide

OAS

K-ESS3-1 | Science Practices 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 | Core Ideas LS3

Crosscutting Concepts, Structure and Function

Program Overview

The museum educator will lead the class in a discussion about amphibians. The class will observe live tadpoles and salamanders in the Discovery Room and learn about the unique features of amphibians. After listening to a story about salamanders, the students will end the class with a movement activity taking them through the life cycle of a frog.

Objectives

After participating in this program, students will be able to:

- Identify different types of amphibians;
- Recognize identifying characteristics of amphibians;
- Be familiar with the life cycle of a frog.

Background

The word amphibian means two lives. This can be seen by looking at the life cycle of most amphibians. They spend the beginning part of their lives breathing oxygen in the water and, after a process called metamorphosis, they begin breathing oxygen in the air. These creatures have wet skin and usually have to stay near water so their skin does not get too dry. Another important feature of amphibians is that they do not have claws or nails.

At the Museum

Hall of Natural Wonders

Look for amphibians in each of the five exhibits: Upland Stream, Oak-Hickory Forest, Limestone Cave, Mixed Grass Prairie and Black Mesa. As your class visits each exhibit, ask them to find different amphibians. You may have to look closely for them; they are usually pretty small.

Vocabulary

Amphibian

an animal that lives part of their life breathing oxygen in the water and the other part breathing oxygen in the air

Metamorphosis

a noticeable change in the form of an animal that happens after birth or hatching

Tadpoles

the aquatic larva of a frog; “baby frog”

Nocturnal

animal behavior characterized by being more active at night and sleeping during the day