



Nature | Education

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GRAB N' GO ACTIVITY:
Raising Tadpoles

OVERVIEW

First graders are learning to think like scientists as they observe animals, compare and contrast their characteristics, and discuss their development. And what better place to start, then with tadpoles?

MATERIALS:

- Tadpoles (either scooped from a pond, or ordered from a pet store or pond supply company, or online at sites like www.livingaquatic.com)
- Container for the tadpoles (aquarium, fish bowl, plastic garbage bin)
- Clean, fresh water (if you use tap water let it stand in the sunlight for 6 to 7 days to remove chlorine)
- Frog and tadpole pellet food
- Paper
- Pencil



Submit your work to the Get to Know Contest for a chance to win wild prizes & go to

GETTOKNOW.CA

to find more free resources and activities

MORE RESOURCES:

- http://www.education.com/activity/article/tadpoles_first/

- Sally Ann Stanley

Ages: 3 - 8

Time: approx. 12 weeks

PROCEDURE:

- Step 1.** Place the tadpoles in a container at home. Tadpoles like shade, so make sure you avoid sunny places like windowsills!
- Step 2.** Feed the tadpoles according to the directions, usually a pinch of food every few days. If the water gets dirty fast, you're probably feeding them too much. Replace dirty water with fresh water, but do make sure you've removed chlorine first (see above).
- Step 3.** Watch the tadpoles grow for the next 6 - 12 weeks. To record their growth, draw a picture of them each week. Encourage them to make the drawings as detailed as possible. These critters may be small, but lots of changes are happening, and you should encourage your child to look very carefully--like a scientist! In particular, watch for when the tadpole starts getting close to developing legs; you'll need to give him a perch. It can be a branch or a pile of small stones.
- Step 4.** Throughout this process, talk about the life stages you're seeing together in the tadpoles. Using the weekly pictures of the tadpoles at different stages, you can discuss similarities and differences between stages.
- Step 5.** In about twelve weeks, your tadpoles will be full-fledged frogs. Congratulations! If you're not planning on keeping the adult frogs, release them into a pond. End by talking about the food chain, and the role your frogs will play in it.