

Frog by Gitksan artist Michelle Stoney

Welék'es - Little frog season Qweloꝝthi:lem - Making music

When we hear the frogs they are reminding us to check in with ourselves and the earth. Can you think of some ways you:

- Show your feelings of respect for the earth?
- Get ready for a change in your activities?
- Give the earth a good feeling?
- Thank the earth for the things it gives you?

Welék'es - Little frog season Qweloꝝthi:lem - Making music

There are lots of powerful sounds we hear all around Stó:lō Territory. Welék'es - the Little Frog Season is a special powerful sound we hear after the winter season.

WHY ARE THE SOUNDS OF FROGS SO POWERFUL?

What makes a sound powerful? Do powerful sounds always have to be loud or big?

The singing that you hear from the frogs is a reminder to us that the earth is preparing to feed us again. When the frogs sing, the nettle begins to pop through the ground, the berries will soon start to ripen, and the salmon will hatch.

Frogs are also great changers and adaptors! They start out living in water and then move to land. Because of this Frog symbolizes the abilities of adaptation, change, and transformation. This frog was made by Coast Salish Artist Maynard Johny Jr. Some say when we hear the frogs it is time to prepare for a change in our activities and routines. How do you change and adapt to new situations?



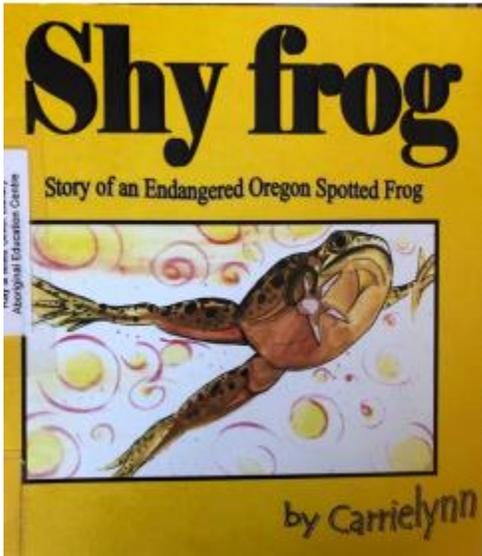
Frogs are special creatures! They can both breathe and drink water through their skin, and they live in both land and water. Their special skin means that they are very sensitive to their environment. If a frog's home on water or land is unhealthy for them, it's a good sign that our water & land is also unhealthy for us!

Our Elders tell us we must respect everything in nature. Mr. Joe Louie says it this way: "When you go out your door, you want to respect everything:

- The ground that you walk on
- The air you breathe
- The trees that you walk by
- Everything that has life

Because frogs are so important, here in Stó:lō Territory we take our responsibility to protect frogs and their home very seriously! Check out this video on [Why the toad crossed the road](#) to learn more. Here is another video about the [March of the Toadlets](#) Next time you hear the frogs singing to you be sure to say thank you back to them!

Try this soundscape experience:



Supplies:

- Shy Frog book by Carrielynn Victor
- Paper cups of various sizes
- Small containers with lids each holding small amounts of water.

To hear frogs in the springtime we need to have our listening ears on. We are going to create a soundscape experience as we read the book Shy Frog. To create our soundscape, you will have to listen carefully for certain signal words.

Split your group up into three groups:

Group 1 = Frogs

Group 2 = Wetlands & Marshes & water

Group 3= bulldozers, hoppers & movers

Group 1 will be given the paper cups. Group 2 will be given the bowls with water, and Group 3 needs to be a group that can be loud and good jumpers. As you read through the story have each group listen for their “signal words.” When a group hears their signal word, they must make their sound.

Frogs signal word = frog. When you hear frog, quietly tap your cups. The Oregon spotted frog sounds similar. [Sound clip](#)

Wetlands, Marshes & water signal words = marshes, bogs, wetlands, water when you hear these words shake your containers so we can hear the water sloshing around.

Bulldozers & hoppers & movers signal words = Bulldozing gravel, garbage, (stomp your feet), hop, leap, snatch (jump up).

Feel free to adapt the soundscape to your liking.

Discuss:

- What was your favorite sound of the soundscape?
- Did some sounds make it harder to hear certain sounds sometimes?
- Sometimes to hear frogs singing we must adapt and be very quiet in all that we do.
- How can you adapt like a frog to be more respectful of the environment you are in?
- What are some roadblocks to being a good communicator?

Resources:

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FVConservancy. “Why Did the Toad Cross the Road.” www.youtube.com, 1 Dec. 2010, [Why Did the Toad Cross the Road - YouTube](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtFhN4h4fCU)

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Johnny Jr., Maynard Salish Weave Collection *Wuhus*.