



Herts and Middlesex



Wildlife Watch

Predator vs Prey

Background information

In nature there is a constant struggle for survival between predators and prey. Both need to eat to survive and prey species need to avoid being eaten. This game is based on frogs and herons. Herons eat a variety of prey species but frogs are a favourite. Frogs therefore have to be alert to the presence of herons and stay hidden and camouflaged to avoid being spotted. Frogs are also eaten by a number of other predators including foxes, kestrels, owls and badgers.

In winter frogs usually leave the pond to find damp safe places in which to hibernate, such as under logs, roots, buildings or old burrows. In spring they wake up and make the hazardous journey back to the pond to breed. In this game explain that the frogs have just woken up from hibernation and need to make it back to the pond without being caught by the heron.

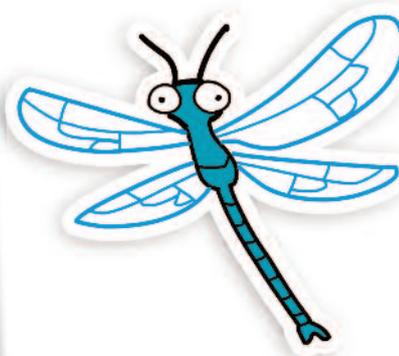


Activity objectives

This game aims to introduce the concept of predator-prey relationships, food chains and the lifecycle of frogs.

What you will need

1. A large area in which to play – preferably outside.
2. The class or large group.
3. A rope to mark “the pond” (optional).



Now turn over...



and play the game!



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How to play

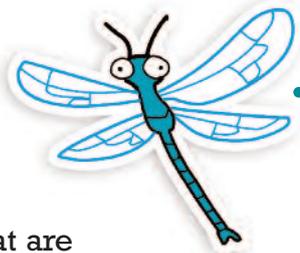
1. Lay the rope out at the end of the playing area to mark the edge of the “pond” – where the frogs need to get to!
2. Play the game “Grandmother’s Footsteps”. One child is selected as the heron and stands in front of the rope with their back to the rest of the group.
3. The rest of the group are all frogs and line up at the other end.
4. The frogs have to try and make it to the pond past the heron without being caught.
5. The frogs start to make their journey (hopping if they like!) while the heron’s back is turned. The heron can choose at any point to turn around at which point all the frogs have to freeze. If the heron sees any frogs still moving they are caught and become extra herons!
6. See how many frogs make it back to the pond!

Follow up

1. Discuss the concept of food chains. What do tadpoles, froglets and frogs eat and what eats them?
2. Discuss the need for prey species to be camouflaged and the need for predators to be stealthy. Herons will stand patiently and quietly wait for their prey to come along.
3. Research other predator-prey relationships.



Common frog tadpole



Information for Teachers

National Curriculum Links – Science

Y1 POS Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Y2 POS Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain.

Y3 POS Identify that animals cannot make their own food, they get nutrition from what they eat.

Y4 POS Recognise that environments can change and this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. Construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey.

