



AT HOME CLASSROOM RESOURCES

EARLY YEARS

Cattails and Coots: Metamorphosis

GRADE 2 - 3

LESSON DESCRIPTION

Raising insects or frogs through their life cycle is an adventurous way to learn about metamorphosis. Our recommendations include options for online engagement if necessary, but focus on how to find real-life examples of life cycles close to home

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS

Growth and Changes in Animals: 2-1-01, 2-1-11, 2-1-14

LESSON

It is very important, not to harm any animals or the environment in the process. Take care to ensure that all animals are released when exhibiting any signs of stress, or if you can't provide food or care.

Frogs

Collecting wood frog eggs in the spring is a delightful way to demonstrate metamorphosis. In Manitoba it is legal to collect for educational use, take only what you need, and release extra tadpoles and the adult frogs back to a water source where you found them. You will need water from the source where the eggs were found, an aerator, and food for the tadpoles (boiled lettuce works well). Alternatively, visit a pond where frogs are found multiple times and use a small net to check on the eggs, tadpoles and frogs over time.

Detailed instructions [here](#).

Insects

Collecting goldenrod or thistle galls and waiting for the fly to emerge is an easy late spring activity. Goldenrod galls are particularly big and easy to find. Detailed instructions [here](#).

Collecting caterpillars in early summer can offer a peek at a life cycle of a butterfly or moth. Some will pupate and emerge as adults in summer, and some will require a winter period before emerging.

Detailed instructions [here](#).

Insects of the pond are fascinating and can be observed each time you visit a local pond for different stages of life cycles. Bring a small aquarium net and plastic container to place catches in. Notice adult insects such as dragonflies near the pond, and their larval life stages living underwater.

[FortWhyte Alive Aquatic Critter Key](#).