

Our Local Endangered Frogs

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This book was created by Year Two students from class 2AJ at Banora Point Primary School as part of a term long learning project on frogs. The project focused on endangered frogs in our local area and included in-depth research in the classroom using non-fiction resources, with support from John Pumpurs, a local frog expert.

The initial work and research centred on the study of Australian frogs in general. Through studying frogs in depth, the class learned research skills and strategies required to read non-fiction texts, participate in group research and write information reports.

In pairs, students selected a different species of frog to research, illustrate and write about. Each report follows a similar format and contains descriptive information; including appearance, diet, habitat, life cycle and threats to individual frogs.

The students became an expert on their endangered frog. They created multiple drafts and participated in multiple rounds of critique to produce a high-quality piece of work.

The students took a lot of care and time into creating their final products and the result is an incredible compilation of non-fiction information reports about threatened frogs in the Tweed, Gold Coast area.



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Freycinet's Frog

Appearance

The Freycinet's frog is also known as the Wallum Rocket frog. It can be up to 4.5 centimetres long and the female frog is a little bit bigger than the male frog. They have shiny grey skin with bumpy black spots on their back. They have dark orange eyes and they also have a black triangular shape behind their eyes and one on their snout. The Freycinet's frog has no webbing between their toes and has extremely long legs to help it jump further than most other frogs. It can leap over 4 metres.

Habitat

The Freycinet's frog lives in open forests and grasslands. They also live in paperbark swamps and wallum swamps from Fraser Island in Queensland down to Jervis Bay in New South Wales.

Diet

These frogs have sticky tongues to help them catch their prey. Their tongue connects at the front of their mouth instead of the back like a human's does. Freycinet's frogs are **carnivores**. They eat flies, mosquitoes, dragonflies, bugs, crickets and moths. They need to blink their eyes to swallow their food like all frogs do.

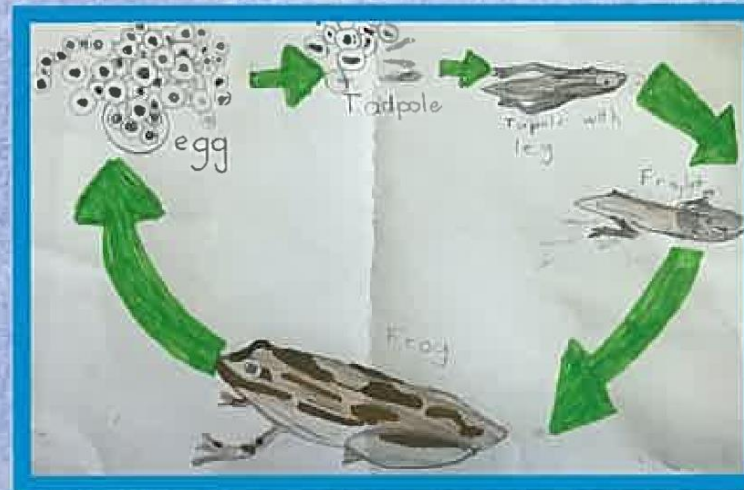
Life Cycle

The female frog lay its eggs or **spawn** underwater and they connect together. Then they hatch into tadpoles. Firstly, the tadpoles back legs start to grow. Next its gills grow back inside its body and form their front legs. Then they turn into a froglet. The tail drops off and it grows into an adult frog. The adult jumps out of the water and looks for danger.

Threats

This frog is threatened because they are losing their habitat and people are building houses where they live. They are also dying from **pollution** and disease.

By Joshua and Luca



GREEN THIGHED FROG

Appearance

The Green Thighed frog is 4 centimetres long. It gets its name from the bright green or blue green colour on the back of their thighs. Their bodies are brown and they have a **broad black stripe** that runs from their **snout** down its **flank**. They also have a white stripe along its lip. The Green Thighed frogs' belly is yellow and their fingers are unwebbed.

Habitat

The Green Thighed frog lives on the East coast of Queensland and they are a ground dwelling frog. That means they live on the ground.

Diet

Green Thighed frogs eat flies, insects, worms and beetles. They blink their eyes to help them swallow their food. They have sticky tongues and they don't eat dead insects.

Lifecycle

The female Green Thighed frog lays the eggs in water then the tadpole hatches out of the egg. Then the tadpole grows its back legs and now the tadpoles can swim faster. The tadpole grows lungs and its gills change into their front legs. They are now known as a froglet. The froglet's tail shrinks and it grows into an adult frog.

Threats

The Green Thighed frog is endangered in our area. It's endangered because people are throwing rubbish into the creeks and rivers and polluting their habitat.

By Oliver and Finn





Wallum Sedge Frog

Appearance

The Wallum Sedge frog is also known as the Olongburra Tree frog or the Sharp Snouted Reed frog. It is a thin green frog that is 2 to 3 centimetres long. Its belly is cream with small yellow dots. A thin black line runs from the nostril to the eye then down the side of its body. It has brown flecks on its throat. The Wallum Sedge frog is light green or light brown in colour and has a long pointy nose. This frog has yellow eyes.

Diet

The Wallum Sedge frog eats all day. Their tongue is attached to the front of its mouth and it is sticky like glue. They leap towards their prey. They blink to swallow their prey, which are beetles, crickets, dragonflies, mosquitoes, grasshoppers, snails and flies. Their tongue is covered with spit which is as thick as honey. When it is going to attack its tongue comes out lightning fast and it swallows its prey whole.

Habitat

The Wallum Sedge frog lives in swamps, freshwater lakes and freshwater marshes in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland.

Life Cycle

The female Wallum Sedge frog lays its eggs in the water. Tadpoles hatch by pushing through the slimy, transparent egg. The tadpole grows its back legs first and then its front legs. It is now a froglet. The froglet's tail shrinks and it grows into an adult frog.

Threats

People are making roads, houses and a lot of other things where they live, destroying their territory. People are also polluting the lakes, creeks and streams with rubbish and this is killing the frog.

By Luke and Ben

Whirring Tree Frog

Appearance

The Whirring Tree frog is also called the Revealed Tree frog. It is a small frog and grows to 4 centimetres long. This frog can be cream or reddish brown in colour and has small black dots on its back. This frog can camouflage itself onto a log. It has a thin stripe from its nostril down to its shoulder. In the breeding season the male frog turns yellow to attract a partner. The frog keeps its skin cool by diving into the water.

Habitat

The Whirring Tree frog lives in swamps and ponds near the coast of Northern New South Wales and Queensland. It also lives in rainforests and farms.

Diet

The Whirring Tree frog only eats its food alive. When their prey moves they know it's alive. It eats things like grasshoppers, crickets, flies and snails. This frog has a very sticky tongue that shoots out as fast as lightning.

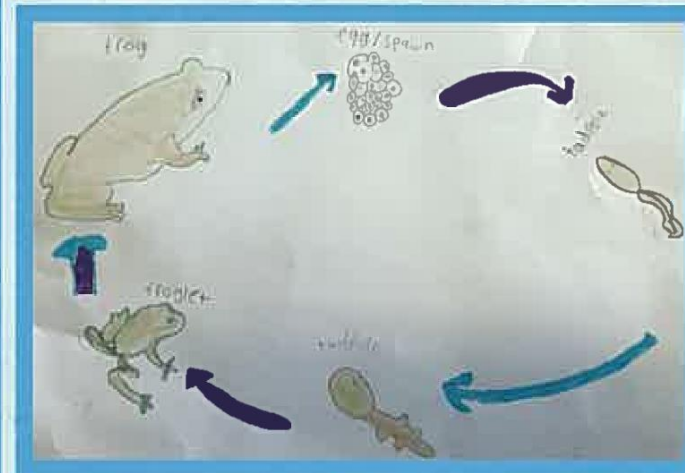
Life Cycle

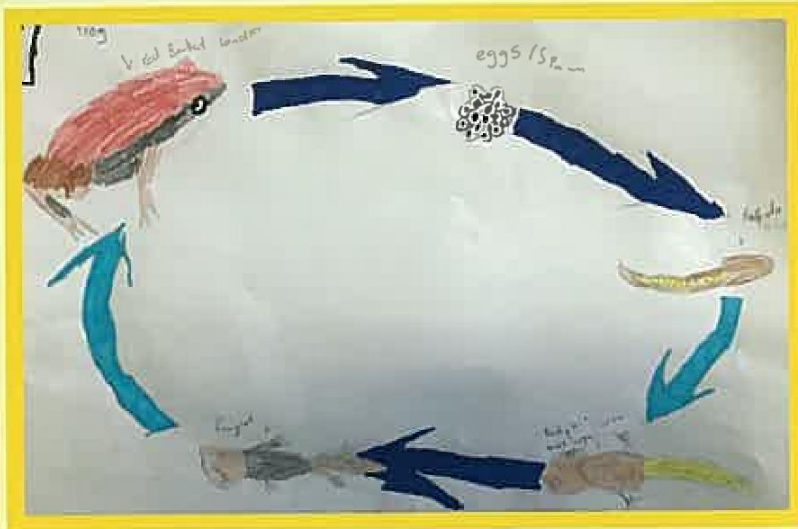
The male Whirring Tree frog turns yellow during the breeding season to attract a mate. The female Whirring Tree frog lays eggs in the water. Tadpoles hatch from the eggs. The tadpoles grow their back legs first and then the tail gets shorter and they grow their front legs. It is now a froglet. The froglet loses its tail and becomes a frog. Now the frog is fully grown and needs to dive into the water to keep its skin wet and cool.

Threats

The Whirring Tree frog is threatened because people are taking over their land and by building houses where they live and they have nowhere to breed.

By Georgina and Grace





RED BACKED FROGLET

Appearance

The Red Backed Froglet grows to about 3.5 centimetres in length. It has a dark body and a red back. They have pinkish coloured **suction pads** on their toes. The Red Backed Froglet has a white patch under its armpit and a reddish orange line on its back with shiny white dots on its back legs. It can jump a long way.

Diet

The Red Backed Froglet likes to eat grasshoppers, flies, moths, crickets, mosquitoes, snails and beetles. It has a long sticky tongue and they only eat live animals. They have to blink to help them swallow their food.

Habitat

The Red Backed Froglet is a species of a land **dwelling** frog, that means they live on the ground in rainforests, ditches and creeks. They live in south east Queensland and Northern New South Wales.

Life Cycle

The female Red Backed Froglet lays its eggs under leaves on the land near creeks. When it rains the water comes and sweeps the eggs into the rivers and creeks. The eggs hatch and then they grow into tadpoles with back legs first. Then they grow into froglets, with four legs and then eventually turn into a fully grown frog in a couple of months.

Threats

The Red Backed Froglet is threatened because the rainforest where they live is being cut down. People are polluting the lakes, creeks, streams where they breed.

By Boston and Kash



Wallum Froglet

Appearance

The Wallum Froglet is a miniature frog that grows to 1.5 centimetres long. It doesn't have webbed feet like some other frogs. This frog has orange-brown skin with dark brown patches on its back. Its eyes bulge out and it has a pointy **snout**. The Wallum Froglet is a ground **dwelling** frog, which means they live on the ground. They **camouflage** themselves amongst the leaves and twigs on the ground.

Diet

The Wallum Froglet eats grasshoppers and other bugs. They fling their tongues out at their **prey**. Their tongues are fully covered with spit. They eat their food alive not dead. The Wallum Froglet's tongue is attached to the front of their mouth.

Habitat

The Wallum Froglet lives in freshwater swamps near the coast. They live in South East Queensland and in North East New South Wales.

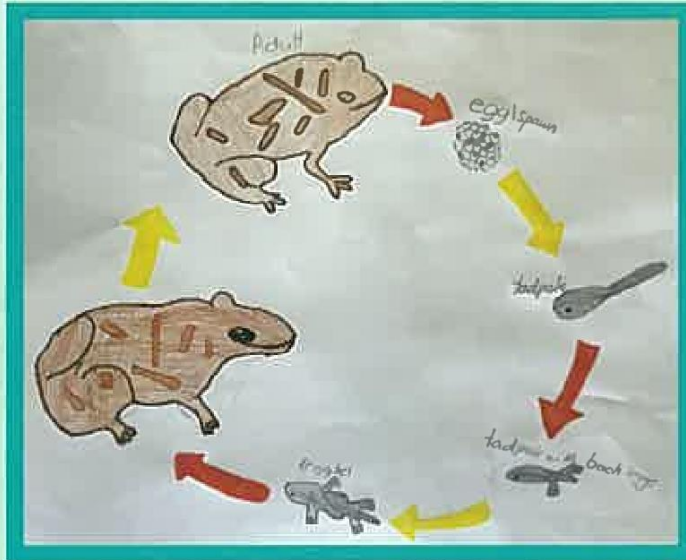
Life Cycle

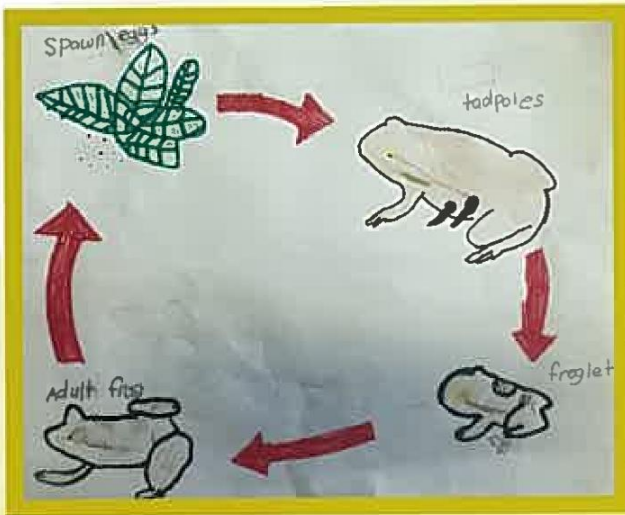
The mother Wallum Froglet lays her eggs in a pond. The eggs stay together as a blob. Then the tadpoles hatch out of the eggs. The tadpole grows its back legs and then front legs. It then grows into a **froglet** with front legs, back legs and a tail. The froglet grows and its tail shrinks. It now becomes an adult frog.

Threats

The Wallum Froglet has become threatened because their habitat is being destroyed by the building of houses, roads and sandmining. The frogs' eggs are also being eaten by fish and the water where the tadpoles live is being polluted by people.

By Indiana and Lucy





The Pouched Frog

Appearance

The Pouched frog is a small frog because it is only 2.5 centimetres long. The male frog has one pouch on each side of its body. Its body is cream or brown and they have black patches on their back. The Pouched frog has a brown **mottled** throat. A dark red dark line goes from its eye to its leg. The skin is smooth on the back and belly but on the sides, it can be rough. Their eyes are gold with brown **flecks**.

Diet

The Pouched frog does not eat dead animals. They like to eat animals that are alive and moving. They eat crickets, moths and beetles. They swallow their food without chewing.

Habitat

The Pouched frog lives in wet rainforests. They live in Northern New South Wales and South East Queensland.

Life Cycle

The female Pouched frog lays her eggs under rocks and leaves on the ground. The male and female frogs guard the nest. The tadpoles hatch from the eggs and climb up to the male's pouch so they can grow up into froglets. The froglets grows into adults inside the pouch and then come out when they are fully grown frogs.

Threats

The frogs are losing their habitat. People are taking away logs from where they live. Their habitat is disappearing because people are building houses and the rivers, lakes and creeks are becoming polluted with people's rubbish.

By Alexandra and Kahlani



Cascade Tree Frog

Appearance

The Cascade Tree frog is also known as the Pearson's Tree frog. It is a small frog that grows to 4.5 centimetres long. It has yellow **suction pads** on its feet to help it climb on to trees and branches and only its toes are webbed. The Cascade Tree frog is green and it has small black dots on its back. Its belly is coloured white. A thin stripe runs from its **snout** down its body to its back legs.

Habitat

The Cascade Tree frog lives in south east Queensland, near streams and rainforests.

Diet

The Cascade Tree frog uses its sticky tongue to catch its **prey**. It eats grasshoppers, crickets, insects and also flies. The frog has to blink to swallow its prey.

Life Cycle

The female Cascade Tree frog lays its eggs in creeks or rivers. The eggs hatch into tadpoles and then the tadpoles grow its back legs and then its front legs, turning into a froglet. The froglet's tail shrinks and it grows into an adult frog.

Threats

The Cascade Tree frog is threatened because people are building houses and roads where they live. People's rubbish is polluting the creeks, lakes and billabongs and killing the frogs.

By Faith and Hudson



Bleating Tree Frog

Appearance

The Bleating Tree frog is also known as the Keferstein's Tree frog. This frog is small and grows up to 4.5 centimetres long. They are dark or light brown and have a black smudge mark on their back. The Bleating Tree frog's toes are webbed, and they have a dark stripe near their eye.

Habitat

The Bleating Tree frog lives in swamps, forests, people's gardens and in drain pipes. They live on the East coast of Australia in New South Wales and Queensland.

Diet

The Bleating Tree frog eats live bugs, grasshoppers, fireflies, snails, crickets, slugs, flies and mosquitoes. They have a long sticky tongue, slimy spit and they have to blink to swallow their food.

Life Cycle

The female Bleating Tree frog lays its eggs in small pools of water. The eggs hatch quickly into tadpoles. The tadpoles have to go through metamorphosis and change into froglets quickly before the pools of water dry out.

Threats

Frogs have moist skin and because they spend some of their life in the water pollution can kill frogs. People are also chopping down forests and destroying their habitat.

By Zayne and Declan





Fleay's Barred Frog

Appearance

The Fleay's Barred frog is a large frog and it grows to about 9 centimetres long. The female grows bigger than the male. It has a brown body with black marks all over it. They have a long **snout** and long toes. Their legs are brown with black stripes. They have a black mark under their eyes and they look like they are wearing sunglasses. You can see their **tympanum** (ear hole) near their eye.

Habitat

The Fleay's Barred frog lives in rainforests of northern New South Wales and south east Queensland. They can be found living near Tallebudgera and Currumbin creek and Mount Warning. The Fleay's Barred frog likes to hide under leaves near streams.

Diet

The Fleay's Barred frog eats snails, beetles, mosquitoes and other insects. They catch their prey with their long, sticky tongue and swallow it whole.

Life Cycle

The female Fleay's Barred frog lays its eggs in leaves in shallow streams or creeks. Tadpoles hatch out of the eggs. The tadpoles **transform** into froglets by growing their back legs first and then their front legs. The froglet's tail shrinks and it grows gills. The froglet is now an adult frog.

Threats

The Fleay's Barred frog is **endangered** because its habitat is being destroyed by people cutting down trees and polluting the water. This frog is also being killed by a fungal disease.

By Bailey and Maxwell

Giant Barred Frog

Appearance

The Giant Barred frog is 12 centimetres long and it is also Australia's second largest frog. This frog is **nocturnal**, meaning it sleeps through the day and is awake at night. The Giant Barred frog's skin is a mix of yellow, brown and white. It has blackish-brown **blotches** and stripes on its body.

Diet

The Giant Barred frog grabs its **prey** with its long sticky tongue. They like to eat grasshoppers, bugs, insects, moths and crickets. All frogs eat only live prey and wait for their food to move before they swallow it whole.

Habitat

The frog lives in forests and bush areas in the north of New South Wales and Southern Queensland.

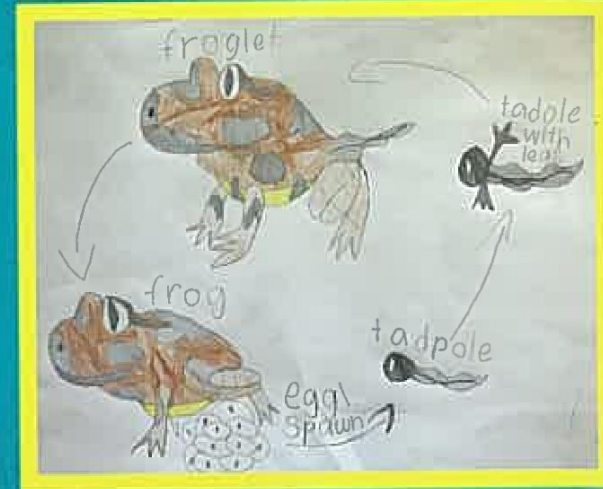
Life Cycle

The female Giant Barred frog lays her eggs in water. The tadpole hatches out of the egg and grows its back legs first. Then they grow their front legs and their tail shrinks. They then become a fully-grown frog.

Threats

The Giant Barred frog is threatened because they look like cane toads and people could confuse them with toads and kill them. The frog's habitat is also being destroyed.

By Savannah and Eve



The Great Barred Frog

Appearance

The Great Barred frog is 8 centimetres long. Their ear hole, or **tympanum** can be seen on the side of their head. The Great Barred frog has black marks on its eye like sunglasses and black stripes on its legs. It is brown and has a yellow belly. The Great Barred frog is a fat frog.

Habitat

The Great Barred frog lives in eastern parts of Australia in New South Wales and Queensland.

Diet

The Great Barred frog eats grasshoppers, flies and mosquitoes. They also eat moths, snails and crickets. They have sticky, lightning fast tongues to catch their prey and their spit is very thick like honey. The frog waits until the bug moves because they don't like to eat dead insects. They blink to swallow their prey.

Lifecycle

The Great Barred frog lays its eggs in the water. Tadpoles hatch out of the eggs. The tadpoles grow their back legs first and then their front legs. When a tadpole has four legs its call a froglet. They continue to grow and when their tail disappears it is called a frog.

Threats

The Great Barred frog's habitat is being destroyed because people keep chopping down trees and the creeks and rivers are being polluted. They have nowhere to live. The Great Barred frog also looks like a poisonous cane toad so some people confuse them with toads and kill them.

By Jett





Tips to Save Our Frogs

Frogs are an important part of our environment. They eat mosquitoes and other pests and are food for birds, fish and mammals. Frogs are a good indicator of damage to the environment because they breathe through their skin and absorb chemicals from the air and water.

The number of frogs around the world has been declining. You can help save our endangered frogs by:

- Keeping your garden free of chemicals like insecticides, pesticides and fertilisers.
- Composting food waste. Compost can be used on gardens instead of chemical fertilizers.
- Reducing, reusing and recycling. Take your own bag to the shops and use reusable containers to reduce the amount of rubbish and waste your family produces.
- Start a recycling program or Environmental club at school.
- Be a responsible pet owner. Don't let your cats or dogs chase and frighten frogs.



Indigenous Frog Stories



Art is a very important part of Aboriginal culture. Aboriginal people used symbols to record stories of what they had seen and learned. These stories often involved animals, hunters, gatherers, animal tracks, water holes and landscape features of the area. Art was also used as a tool for learning and passing on knowledge.

Students in 2AJ spent time looking at local Aboriginal symbols and learning about their meaning, connection to the land and stories. Students then created their own story and drew it using the symbols.

Hunting and gathering

Following the track

Teaching and learning

The plan of attack.

Prints in the ground

Wet and damp

The hunters will track them

To take back to the camp.

Pictures and symbols

They all have a turn

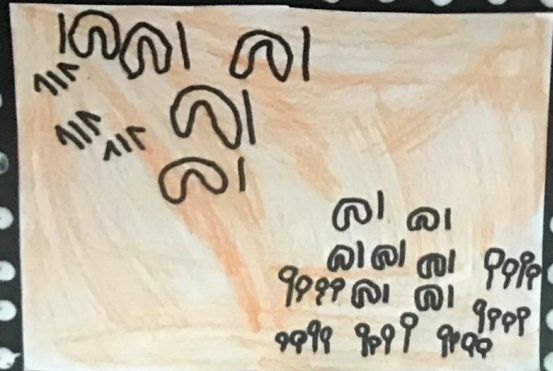
Their stories are kept

For others to learn.



We used these Aboriginal symbols to create our own stories.





The hunters were hunting 3 kangaroos and the jarjums were hunting 6 frogs.
By Luke

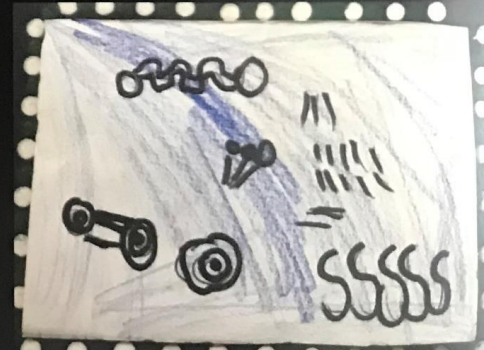
The hunters try to keep the endangered frogs safe from animals eating them.
By Luca

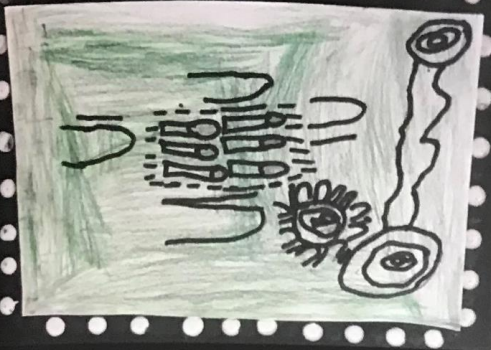


There was a campsite and there were snake and frog trails. The Aboriginal people were travelling for a long time and then they found a water hole.
By Bailey



All the Aboriginal people were gathering around the campsite and they followed the tracks of a frog and emu down to the water hole. When they were there they saw some kangaroo tracks. Then they travelled to another campsite for a feast.
By Zayne





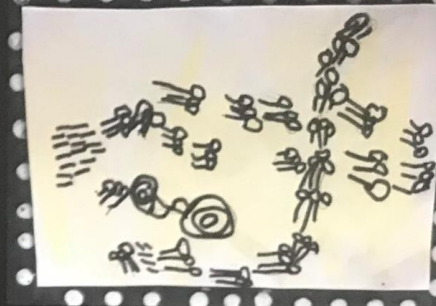
All the men hunted the food and followed the tracks of the frogs. They didn't always eat them.

By Oliver



The frogs were very scared and the hunters are trying to catch them because they are hungry.

By Finn



The men were showing the young boys how to follow the tracks of a frog. Then they hunted them down.

By Joshua



There was a big flood and when the water cleared up there were frogs everywhere.

By Eve



In the Dreamtime all the boys and girls followed the tracks of the frogs and emus around the water hole.

By Alexandra



The tribe were around the campsite and then went to the water hole to catch some frogs and kangaroos.

By Boston



The Aboriginal people were at a campsite and then they saw kangaroo prints. They followed the prints to track them down.
By Ben



They went to eat the kangaroos and then they went to drink at the water hole. There were lots of frogs around the water hole.
By Maxwell



The people were going to meet at the water hole and saw frog prints on the ground.
By Grace



The frogs jumped into the water hole to keep cool and the kangaroos and emus watched them closely as they had a drink.
By Kahlani



The hunters were hungry for frogs to eat but the frogs got away on the back of a kangaroo.
By Savannah



The kangaroos were drinking at the water hole. The kangaroos and frogs hopped away.
By Jett



All the frogs were drinking from the water hole and the hunters came along. The hunters tried to protect the frogs but they were scared and hopped away into the forest.
By Declan



The hunters and gatherers were at the camp and decided to go hunting for frogs and emus. They followed their tracks to the water hole.
By Indiana

The hunters were at the campsite and then they went to the water hole to drink. While they were there they saw some frog tracks. They decided to hunt them and take them back to camp.
By Kash



The Aboriginal people were hungry and thirsty so they decided to go hunting for frogs and emus. They followed their tracks to the water hole.
By Hudson



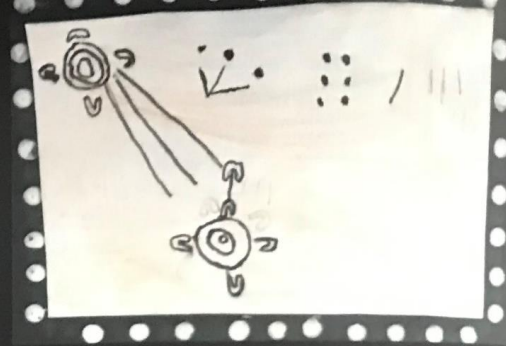


There was only one water hole in the lands and all the hunters gathered there. This made the animals scared so they had to drink from the rain puddles and not the water hole.

By Faith

First the hunters travelled and then they saw frog prints and studied them. After that the hunters went to a water hole where they found ants and emu tracks to follow and hunt. They found a campsite to stay overnight and then they found more frog prints and studied them again.

By Lucy



All the Aboriginal people gathered around the meeting place and spoke about frog and kangaroo tracks. The hunters took the children out to show them what their tracks looked like.

By Georgina

Glossary

blotches	a large, irregular shape
breeding	to produce offspring or babies
broad	wide
camouflage	to hide or disguise by changing the way it looks
carnivore	a meat-eating animal
dwelling	to live in a place
endangered	threatened with extinction
flank	side of the body
flecks	spots or marks
metamorphosis	the change from tadpole to frog
mottled	a pattern of coloured spots
nocturnal	awake and active at night
pollution	rubbish and chemicals introduced into the environment that harm animals and humans
prey	an animal hunted and killed for food
snout	long nose
spawn	the eggs of frogs
transform	to change completely in appearance
transparent	to see through
tympanum	eardrum



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank John Pumpurs from 'Frog Prints' for sharing his expert knowledge and frog photographs with class 2A).

John Pumpurs has been photographing frogs in Northern New South Wales and the Sunshine Coast since 1994. Many of his photographs have been used by local councils, Parks and Wildlife Services and the Australian Museum, as well as images being published in numerous books. John has raised many species of native frogs on his property and has over 10 000 photographs of over 45 different frog species. He frequently assists with local frog identification, promotes awareness of native frogs and their survival in disturbed areas.

John very kindly donated his time to visit 2A), answering the students many questions regarding endangered frogs and has generously allowed his photographs to be used in this publication at no cost.

Thank you Mr Pumpurs!



Alexandra

Faith-2

Super.W

Leed

Indiana

Bailey xxx

Kash

Georgia

Boston.c Ben

Super.W★ Kahlani★

Joshua

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Lily.S ere

Hudson

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