

Learning together

Activating Prior Knowledge and Reading with Intention

ACTIVITY #2

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES
3RD CYCLE — PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

You and your child have previewed the text or book you are about to read together. Now that you have a general idea of what to expect, take a moment to think about what you already know about the topic and what your purpose for reading is.



Relevance of the activity

Activating prior knowledge is essential for good reading comprehension. By thinking about what we already know about a topic, we can better connect new information to what we already understand.



Supplies

- Text *Discovering Frogs: Fascinating Creatures in Our Ecosystems* (see Appendix)

To do this activity, you can also use:

- texts your child has to read for school;
- a book at your child's reading level.



LET'S GO!

What?



Today, we are going to get ready to read by activating what we already know and by setting a purpose for reading, based on the type of text or book.

Why?



Activating what we already know about a topic helps us make connections between new information and what we already understand. Having a purpose for reading means answering the question: Why am I reading this text? When you are clear about your goal, it helps you stay focused on what matters most.

When?



This is a strategy you use before you start reading.

How?



Once you have previewed the text and found clues, you already have a general idea of the topic.

At that point, I always ask myself:

1 **Why am I reading this text?**

2 **What is my goal?**

The goal can change depending on the type of text.

Sometimes, we read to:

follow a **story**;

OR

learn **new information**.



I will show you how I do it:

I previewed my text by looking at the title and the headings.

I see that the text is about **frogs**.

I already know several things about them:

- There are many kinds of frogs.
- They can live in water and on land.

By looking at the **headings** and the **first lines**, I think that:

- the text will give me information about frogs;
- I might learn the names of different kinds of frogs.

There is something **I do not know yet**: How do frogs survive the winter?

I notice that one of the headings is about winter. **So I think the text will explain this.**

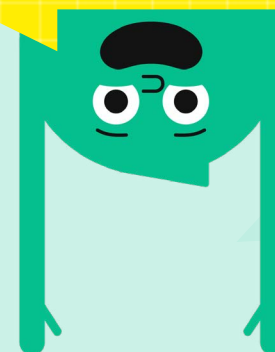
So, while I read, I will mainly pay attention to the different kinds of frogs and how they survive the winter.

That is my purpose for reading. Now I know what to focus on.



Don't forget!

Before you start reading, ask yourself a question: What would I like to learn from this text?



Discovering Frogs: Fascinating Creatures in Our Ecosystems

Frogs, the small amphibians often found in our yards and near ponds or streams, play a crucial role in balancing our ecosystems. Their presence is an indicator of the health of our local environment.

A Surprising Variety

There is an incredible diversity of frogs around the world, ranging from the tiny poison arrow frog, no bigger than a fingernail, to the impressive bull frog, which can measure up to 15-centimetre long. Each species has developed unique adaptations to its habitat, whether tropical, humid, or cool temperate.

Surviving Winter

During the winter months, frogs face considerable survival challenges. They go into hibernation, a form of dormancy where their metabolism slows considerably. Some species bury themselves in mud or under dead leaves, while others can even survive under a layer of ice, thanks to natural antifreeze substances in their blood that prevent their tissues from freezing.

An Essential Ecological Role

Frogs are effective predators that regulate insect populations, which helps limit disease transmission and crop damage. They are also a food source for numerous other species, playing a central role in the food chain. Their decline could therefore have cascading effects on the entire ecosystem.

