

Learning together

Asking Questions to Better Understand

ACTIVITY #10

SEQUENCE: READING STRATEGIES
3RD CYCLE — PRIMARY

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Purpose of the activity

The goal of this activity is to learn how to ask yourself questions while reading in order to check and adjust your understanding.



Relevance of the activity

Asking yourself questions while reading allows you to:

- **think** about what you have just learned, make connections with your prior knowledge, and adjust it;
- **stay active** and **respond** to the text.



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 learn how to ask questions when reading a text in order to react to it, make connections and formulate hypotheses.

Why?



Let's look together at what this strategy helps us do: better understand the text, make connections between what you already know and new information, stay active and engaged while reading, and react to what you read.

When?



You can use this strategy before you begin reading to predict the content, and while reading to check your understanding.

How?



To be active in your reading, you need to pause and ask yourself questions about what you are reading.

Let's look at an example together using the text *Discovering Frogs: Fascinating Creatures of Our Ecosystems* in the appendix.

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 imposing bullfrogs, which can measure up to 15 centimetres in length. Each species has developed unique adaptations to its habitat, whether in a tropical, humid or cool temperate climate.

By asking myself questions, I can stay focused on my text and it helps me memorize the information.

Surviving the Winter

During the winter months, frogs face considerable survival challenges. They go into hibernation, a form of dormancy where their metabolism slows significantly. 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.

You see, I asked myself a lot of questions as I was reading to make connections between what I was reading and my knowledge and personal experiences. It helps me to be more focused, satisfy my curiosity and connect new knowledge to what I already know.

You can now practise this strategy using a book that matches your child's reading level.

I didn't really know about the different types of frogs. I wonder if the author will teach me more about these two species?

I think this part will talk about frog species that live in Quebec because of the snow. I think the author will explain what they do during the winter months.

Don't forget!

Here are some things you can ask yourself about: What will happen next (make predictions)? What do you think you will learn (reading purpose)? What is the meaning of a new word (better understanding) and a new fact (reacting)?



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.

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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.

