

## It's Not Easy Being Green...and Having to Catch Food!

**Grade Level(s):** 1-3

**Science Concept:**

The frog is a predator and what the frog eats is prey. Energy goes from the prey (the fly as food) into the predator, the frog. The frog's tongue is adapted for catching food. For the most part, frog tongues are attached near the back of the jaw and folded on the base of the mouth with the tip of the tongue pointing backwards towards its throat. Their tongues can be flipped out very rapidly and accurately in order to catch an insect or other tasty treat. Mucus glands in the mouth produce a sticky substance that helps to catch prey. Although a frog's tongue is adapted for catching insects, they do not always successfully catch a fly with every try.

**Materials:** precut for each child

Piece of thin ribbon - 20 cm long

Noisemaker blowouts

Stick-on hook and loop fastener (Velcro) - 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cm each

Scissors (unless materials are precut)

Icky, Sticky Frog or Philippe in Monet's Garden

**Procedures:**

**Focus**

1. Read the book.
2. Where do the frogs live?
3. What did they eat?
4. How do you think frogs are able to catch their food?

**Explore** (depending on the grade level, the teacher may have to model this)

5. Work in groups of two - one bag /child
6. Remove the materials from the bag.
7. Hold the ribbon by the end without the loop part away from your body.
8. Blow on the blowout and try to catch the loop part on the end of the ribbon.
9. Try doing it while moving the ribbon.

**Reflect**

1. What do the blowout and the Velcro piece on the end of the ribbon represent?
2. Which is the predator and which is the prey?
3. How easy was it to catch the "fly"? Why?

**Apply**

1. Why do you think the frog is able to catch flies?
2. How else might they be adapted to catching flies?
3. How is this an advantage to the frog?
4. Where else do frogs live? How might their food differ?
5. What other animals catch their food the way that frogs do?

**Extension into Inquiry:**

What questions do you now have?

How might we be able to investigate that?