

## **“IT’S NOT EASY BEING GREEN” - AN AMPHIBIAN CURRICULUM**

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**Recent experience or work with amphibians:** My experience with amphibians is limited although I’m learning a lot as I write this amphibian curriculum for the Juneau School District. I lived with a Red-eyed tree frog and an African clawed frog for many years, and am the current caretaker of a Boreal toad raised from a tadpole collected in the Juneau area.

“It’s Not Easy Being Green”- An Amphibian Curriculum, was written to give upper elementary and middle school students a glimpse into the extraordinary world of amphibians found in southeast Alaska, and worldwide.

This curriculum captures the big ideas about amphibians, including their natural history, habitat needs and diversity, as well as the adaptations they have developed for living their unique “double lives” in water and on land. Students will have an opportunity to investigate why amphibians around the world are declining, and research how limb regeneration in salamanders is being used to help people. They will dissect a frog either virtually or hands-on, make a frog sandwich while learning about frog anatomy and body systems, and explore their important, if not obvious, similarities to humans.

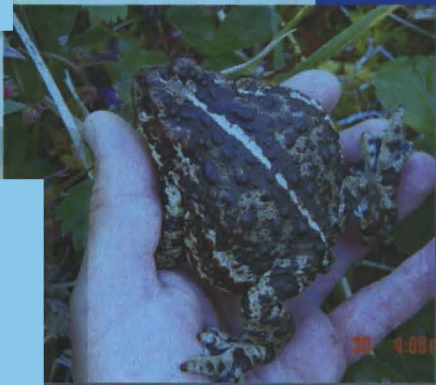
Teachers and students will monitor local wetlands for the presence of amphibians and compare their information to data collected by researchers. They will learn how Alaska Natives utilized wetlands plants and what they believed about amphibians. Students will also have a chance to concoct their own plant medicines based on traditional Native American recipes.

A list of amphibian resources for teachers, including researchers, naturalists, Alaska Natives, websites, books and journals will be compiled and incorporated into the curriculum.

This curriculum will be distributed and introduced to schools and outdoor camps in Juneau and several other Southeast Alaskan communities. It is intended to pique students’ and teachers’ interests in the ongoing mysteries surrounding amphibian declines and to inspire them to look for clues herpetologists and other researchers might use to solve the puzzle.

# The First Statewide Conference on Alaska's Amphibians

## ABSTRACTS OF PRESENTATIONS



Juneau, Alaska  
March 30 - April 1, 2004