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|  | [Note: Best if viewed at Full Screen]  Introduction             We were inspired to research the topic that we did based on two different ecological phenomena that we discovered.  Our original plan was to research the effects of various chemicals on the growth of frog embryos - an interesting concept (to us, at least), but one with no real relevance to contemporary biological issues.  Before long, however, our researched revealed to us an interesting way to tie in our project with some of these issues.           First of all, it came to our attention that over the past several years worldwide amphibian populations have steadily been on the decline.  Unfortunately, local frog populations have been no exception.  The California red-legged frog, which was initially made famous by Mark Twain�s, The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, was, as of May 23, 1996, approved for protection under the U.S. Endangered Species Act.   Whereas initial drops population in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were attributed to their popularity as a culinary delicacy and invasive farming practices (5) (that cost the frogs more than 75% of their habitat), scientists have been hard pressed to find a reason for more recent drops.           There have been suggestions, however.  It is generally accepted that part of the problem lies in the upsetting of the animals� natural habitats.   Red-Legged frog populations dropped most drastically where there have been invasions of non-native creatures, such as the more aggressive bullfrog and various species of fish.  But this would not account completely for the numberinfectiouss that have been lost.  On top of this, scientists have suggested that increased exposure to UV rays thanks to the deterioration of the O-Zone could be partly responsible.  Others say that it could be some sort of  agent.  Others still suggest that the drops could be attributed to acid deposition (or, as it is more commonly known, acid rain), which could be stored in the snowpack, only to later precipitate down into rivers and lakes in the spring, during the frogs� breeding season.    [Part Two](http://docs.google.com/intro2.html)     [Part Three](http://docs.google.com/intro3.html)     [Part Four](http://docs.google.com/intro4.html) |

*This Web Site is Best viewed with 256 or more colors.*

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