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|  | [Note: Best if viewed at Full Screen]  Introduction  Part 2           During the breeding season, which begins in early spring, the frogs begin to mate without actually ever having intercourse.  The females tend to lay eggs in areas with sufficient safety from predators and disruption as well as vegetation.  These reeds and grasses aid as anchors to which the eggs can attach and grow.  The males then enter the waters and discharge their semen into the aquatic �micro-forest� into which the sperm diffuse  and fertilize the eggs. [(Bio Book)](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html)         At this point we had all but decided to focus the brunt of our research on the decreasing amphibian populations.  Luckily for us, we were faced with an almost perfect environment in which to explore this phenomenon, as the bullfrog populations in the Arroyo Del Valle, a local creek, had all but disappeared over the course of the last year.         Once we were assured that we would be able to test in an environment that mirrored the worldwide statistics, our only problem was deciding what to test for.  We ended up deciding to test for whether the populations� disappearance was in any way linked to changing pH levels in the creek, brought on, presumably, by acid deposition. The term �pH� stands for �parts hydrogen� and is a measure of the relative concentration of the hydrogen ions (H+) within a solution.  The pH measurements are given on a scale of 0 to 14 and equal to the negative logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration.  This means that as the pH level decreases the hydrogen ion concentration increases, making the solution more acidic.  Likewise, as the pH increases, the ion concentration decreases, and the solution becomes more basic, or alkaline.  [(Bio Book)](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html)    [Back to Part One](http://docs.google.com/intro.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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