

THE VANISHING

FROG



The Vanishing Frog: Family Viewing Guide **Animal Planet World Premiere November 20th, 8pm ET/PT**

The Vanishing Frog takes you and your family on a journey around the globe as Jeff Corwin and a team of scientists uncover the mysteries of why the world's frogs are vanishing at an alarming rate. Frogs and their relatives have thrived on earth for more than 360 million years, but now they're under serious threat. Experts believe that as many as one-third to one-half of the planet's 6,000 amphibian species are in danger of disappearing — victims of one of the most significant mass extinctions since the dinosaurs.

We encourage you to watch this important documentary with your children and use the questions and activities in this guide to spark discussion and encourage action. You'll also find simple ideas to help the frogs, fun trivia and interactive web sites for further exploration.

The plight of the frogs is a problem that affects all of us. Thank you for watching *The Vanishing Frog* and for helping your child become part of this critical environmental solution.

Questions you can ask younger children:

- Why are the frogs getting sick?
- How are people trying to help the frogs?
- How do frogs help us?
- Why is it important to help save the frogs?
- What things can our family do to help the frogs?

Viewing Activities for younger children:

- Have your child draw pictures of the frogs Jeff visits and how the plight of the frogs makes them feel.
- Follow Jeff's path around a map or globe as he travels from California to Missouri to Panama to Puerto Rico. Which places would your child most want to visit and why?
- Jeff's fascination with frogs began as a child as he searched for frogs in the local pond. Ask your children what type of wildlife fascinates them and why. Then come up with ways to help them connect with these animals.

Questions you can ask older children:

- How is global warming hurting the frogs?
- What is an ecosystem and what is the frogs' role in its ecosystem?
- What strategies have scientists come up with to help save the frogs?
- How can frogs make our lives better?
- What does it mean that frogs are the "canaries in the coal mine" regarding the environment?
- How did chytrid fungus start?
- How does bleach help scientists on their mission to save the frogs?

Viewing Activities for older children

- Jeff Corwin and the team of scientists are passionate about helping to save the amphibians. What environmental issues are you and your family passionate about? How can you help to positively impact those issues?
- Track all of the challenges that Jeff and his team face as they visit frog populations around the globe. How do they overcome those challenges?
- Create a list with your child of all of the people who are working as a team to save the frogs. How can different careers can you name? Check out the "job descriptions" of herpetologists, scientists, researchers and (fill here from script).

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Vanishing Vocabulary Leap into the dictionary with your child to learn the definitions of these words from the documentary:

- adapt
- biodiversity
- colonize
- endangered
- epidemic
- extinct
- fungicide
- herpetologist
- keratin
- threatened
- plummet

Right In Your Own Pond

There are many things you and your family can do right in your backyard to help frogs around the world. Give one (or more!) of these a try.

- Reduce the use of harmful chemicals in your garden or home.
- Go on a wildlife expedition in your neighborhood.
- Work together as a family to conserve energy and recycle.
- Build a backyard habitat to create a home for an amphibian (or two!)
- Collect loose change for a month and contribute it to Amphibian Ark.
- Tell 5 friends about the plight of the frogs.
- Visit your local zoo and find out how they are helping the amphibians.

Fun Facts About Frogs!

1. Frogs have teeth but toads do not.
2. Frogs' ears are connected to their lungs.
3. Frogs shed their skin often to keep it healthy. Once they shed it, they eat it!
4. The world's biggest frog is the Goliath frog from West Africa. It can grow up to 13 inches long and weigh up to 8 pounds.
5. The Chinese word for frog is "qing wa." In Spanish, it's "rana." In Ethiopia, it's "enkurarit."

Hop on the Web

Learn more about the plight of the amphibians at the amphibian ark:

www.amphibianark.org

Follow Jeff Corwin's reports from the field:

<http://www.savethefrog.com/corwin.html>

Want to hear a frog call? Check out this site from the University of Michigan:

<http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/topics/frogCalls.html>

Rate your family's conservation habits: <http://allaboutfrogs.org/info/teach/learning.html#conserv>