

Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather

Helpful Vocabulary

adaptation: a unique feature that allows a living organism to be better suited to its particular environment or way of life

ecosystem: includes all of the living species (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) factors in an environment

ectothermic: relying upon the external environment for heat

endangered: when used in the context of the IUCN Red List, a taxon is classified as 'Endangered' when there is very high risk of extinction in the wild in the immediate future

endothermic: relying on heat produced inside the body, and having a body temperature which is kept stable by mechanisms such as sweating to cool down and shivering to warm up

habitat: the natural environment where an animal lives, including plant life, climate, and geology

herpetology: the study of amphibians and reptiles (a herpetologist is a person who studies amphibians and reptiles)

histogram: a type of graph that represents the distribution of a set of numerical data. The y-axis represents numbers of observations and the x-axis contains bins that capture the entire range of the variable that has been measured.

homeostasis: the ability to maintain a constant internal environment despite environmental changes

indicator species: species whose sensitivity to changes in the environment makes them ideal for showing the negative effects of human actions on ecosystems

niche: the role and position that an organism has in its habitat

optimal: best

pandemic: an epidemic occurring on a scale which crosses international boundaries, usually affecting a large number of organisms

permeable: allows things to pass through

species: a group of organisms that contains individuals that can breed with one another

threatened: threatened species are those that are facing threats to their survival, and may be at risk of extinction

