**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