

Species at Risk

There are 5 classifications of species at risk.
You need to find definitions for these in your text:

1. Vulnerable - at risk due to low numbers in some areas
2. Threatened - likely to become endangered
3. Extirpated - no longer in one area (local extinction)
4. Endangered - close to extinct everywhere
5. Extinct - no longer found anywhere

Mar 6-1:13 PM

On land - if adult frog populations drop dramatically, insect populations tend to explode the frog's predators die off as well.

Leads to an increase in diseases in a given area. Many third-world countries experience situations like this.

Loss of tadpole populations tends to have a domino effect as well.

Statistically frog populations are dropping all around the world.

<http://science.kqed.org/quest/video/disappearing-frogs/>

Mar 6-1:13 PM

Frogs as Environmental Indicators

Frogs as a species are great environmental indicators. Examining frogs tells us a lot about how healthy or unhealthy an environment is.

Frogs live 2 very different lives:

- (A) a water-based life
- (B) a land-based life

This means that frogs belong to two very different food chains or food webs.



1. They have a water based life as a tadpole.
2. They have a land based life as an adult frog.

The hazards they are exposed to indicate, or can indicate, that there are problems within the food web.

Mar 6-1:10 PM

WHY??????

1. Loss of Habitat

wetlands are being filled in (for developmental purposes)
less wetlands means less habitat for the frogs
some waters are cloudier/dirtier than before so not as good a quality for healthy frog development

2. Poorer Air and Water Quality

Frogs have a very thin skin (not well protected)
Pollutants in the air and water easily pass through the frog's skin which effects its health and development

3. UV Radiation

the sun's radiation has a damaging effect on the frog's thin skin and has led to higher cancer rates in frog populations

4. Climate Change

there may be a link between global warming and the frog's lower numbers

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/animals/amphibians-animals/frogs-and-toads/frog_tadpole_development/

Mar 6-1:13 PM

Why should we care about species Extinction?

Extinction effects the diversity or biodiversity of an ecosystem (and the planet in general).

All organisms are somehow connected to each other.

When one or more species disappears, there may be a domino effect because the food chain/web has been forever altered.

This could in the worst case lead to a complete collapse in the food chain/web.

Ultimately the top predator on the planet (US) will pay.....

ex: pacific sea otter and the urchin

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wcy-i_LJH9Y&safety_mode=true&persist_safety_mode=1&safe=active

For Project...

<http://www.animalport.com/extinct-animals/Extinct-Animals.html>

Mar 6-1:13 PM

Mar 6-1:22 PM

Nov 3-2:24 PM