

Growth

Using the poster

Display the poster at child height on the wall. Encourage the children to point out the correct sequence of the life cycle by following the direction of the arrows. Talk about how the tadpole gradually changes as it grows.

Personal, social and emotional development

- Encourage the children to draw or paint several pictures showing the stages in a frog's life cycle. Provide a large circle of backing paper and several sticky paper arrows. Get the children to work as a team by sorting, matching and gluing the pictures and arrows on the disc to show the correct sequence of events.
- Talk about the life cycle of a butterfly, then invite the children to help each other follow the same procedure as above to create a colourful display illustrating a butterfly's life cycle.

Communication, language and literacy

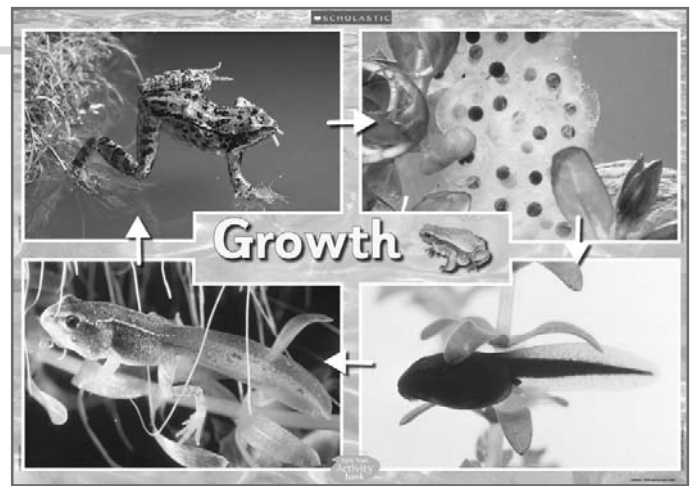
- Help the children to write a simple sentence about each scene in the poster, then mount the sentences randomly around the poster. Invite the children to use lengths of ribbon to match each sentence to the appropriate scene.
- Invite the children to try these tongue-twisters: 'Five fat frogs find five friendly fish' and 'Two tiny tadpoles twist and turn their tails'.

Mathematical development

- Provide ten blue paper 'ponds' and invite the children to use black finger paints to print one to ten tadpoles in each pond. Help them to label the ponds 1 to 10. Display the ponds, in numerical order to create a number line or hang them vertically as a counting mobile.
- Help the children to make ten Plasticine frogs and five green paper lily pads. Jump the frogs on and off the lily pads and ask questions such as *How many frogs are on the first lily?*, *Which lily has the most frogs?* *If two frogs jump off this lily, how many will be left?* and so on.

Knowledge and understanding of the world

- If possible, keep frogspawn in a suitable



container of pond water. Alternatively, with parental permission, arrange several supervised visits to a local pond for the children to observe how tadpoles change as they grow.

- Help the children to use a digital camera to record their observations. Let them select and print a set of photos showing different stages of growth. Print two or more identical copies of the photos for sorting and matching games.

Physical development

- Encourage the children to think of words to describe how frogspawn, tadpoles and frogs move. For example, frogspawn wobbles, drifts and floats; tadpoles wriggle, twist, spin and dive; frogs jump, spring, swim and leap. Invite the children to select three words to make up a short sequence of movements.
- Let the children take turns to play percussion instruments to represent different stages of a frog's life cycle, for example, soft sounds might inspire slow movements of frogspawn floating; rapid sounds could inspire quick, jerky movements representing young tadpoles, and sudden loud sounds could be a frog leaping.

Creative development

- Help the children to make 'frogspawn jelly' by stirring currants into a traditional jelly mixture. (Check for any food allergies beforehand.)
- Invite the children to select a range of textured materials to create a feely collage based on an imaginary pond containing giant frogspawn, tadpoles, frogs and plants.

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