

A Leap Through Time

Created by: names of group members

CHARACTERS

Grandma Frog	Name
Egg	Name
Hatching	Name
Tadpole	Name
Froglet	Name
Adult Frog	Name

NOTES

Students in stage 2 learn about life cycles of living things as part of the Australian science school curriculum. This drama performance has been designed to develop students' knowledge about the life cycle of a frog. In doing so, students can learn about important factors that influence the survival of an animal species.

In our script there is a mix of recorded music and sound effects, and music and sound effects created by the actors through use of body percussion, singing and instruments (see prop list). A main dramatic element we have used in our script is focus. For each scene the focus is on one actor and the others are 'frozen' in position. Due to this the body percussion and instruments used for the soundscapes have been chosen to allow the background actors to create the soundscapes with minimal movement so they do not retract from the focus.

The recorded music and sound clips would be downloaded onto an iPad and labelled in order to be played and their cue. The Egg would have the iPad with her at her stage marker and would play the music and sound recordings throughout the play. The iPad would be connected to a bluetooth speaker located in front of the audience

We have used lighting to support the element of focus, however if this was not possible in the real life setting, our use of actors 'freezing' in position would still shift the audience's focus.

RESOURCES DOCUMENT

We have created a supporting document for our script. It contains images of costumes, set design and layout, and props, links to recorded music and sound effects as well as the choreography for the finale dance sequence.

This document can be accessed via this link:

[Link to Google slide show removed]

We recommend going into 'Present' mode (click the button in the top right corner) for ease of use of the document. We have checked that everything in the slides document works, however if sometimes the embedded videos and audio files take a little while to open. If you have any trouble accessing anything please contact xxxx

COSTUMES

- **Grandma Frog** – Long grey dress with shawl draped around shoulders. Towel wrapped around hair and fashioned on top of head. Green face paint and green stockings/tights. Big reading glasses and a walking stick.
- **Egg** – wrapped up black sheet with head poking out (wearing black clothes underneath)
- **Hatchling** – Black long sleeve hoodie jumper, black tights and black socks.
- **Tadpole** – brown long-sleeved shirt and long blue pants (legs are part of the water, not the tadpole). Brown stuffed tail dress up attached around waist for a tail.
- **Froglet** – Hand-made frog mask, green shirt and pants.
- **Adult frog** – Green dress with green jacket wrapped around the waist.

LIST OF PROPS

- 5 plastic lunch box containers partially filled with water located at each of the Egg, Hatchling, Tadpole, Froglet and Adult Frog starting stage marker
- 1 wooden percussion frog located at the Froglet starting stage marker
- 1 Party Popper for Hatchling
- 1 Photo Album (with Grandma Frog's lines in it)
- 1 Rocking Chair
- Walking stick
- iPad positioned at Egg stage marker
- Bluetooth speaker (connected to iPad), positioned between the stage and the audience

SCRIPT

SCENE 1

Curtains open and the stage is dark. The set represents a pond environment. There are pieces of blue, green and brown fabric and clothing on the floor representing the pond water. There are green and brown cushions representing plants and stones and cardboard grass tufts positioned around the stage.

SFX Pond Soundscape: *Hatchling and Adult Frog make gentle lapping water sounds using lunchboxes partially filled with water. Froglet makes soft frog noises using a wooden percussion frog. Egg and Tadpole make soft insect noises by rubbing the surfaces of their fingernails together. The pond soundscape continues throughout SCENE 1.*

SFX: Spotlight turns on *illuminating Grandma Frog sitting in her rocking chair positioned downstage right. Grandma Frog slowly rocks in her chair while gazing affectionately at the photo album in her lap.*

GRANDMA FROG: *(Large sigh)* Goodness me, I haven't looked at this old thing in years!

Rocks back and forth and giggles to self while viewing photos. Grandma Frog slowly gets out of the chair and stands using the walking stick which is propped up against her chair. Begins hobbling slowly towards Egg while speaking and gazing affectionately at the photo album. Moves slowly, is slightly hunched over and appears shaky on her legs.

GRANDMA FROG: *(Speaks in raspy voice)* Wow! This photo must have been taken back when it all began. I remember, it was springtime and my mum had just laid me and my brothers and sisters in the pond. We were just tiny eggs at the time and there were hundreds of us!
(Sadder tone) Unfortunately, not everyone survived as the wind and rain was pretty strong that year. Thankfully, I had all that gooey jelly stuff around me

to protect me!

(Curiously) I wonder where all my
brothers and sisters are now...?

Grandma Frog is now standing next to Egg's pond scene marker. Grandma Frog gazes upwards, towards the ceiling as if reflecting on a memory. Grandma Frog freezes in this position.

SFX: Pond Soundscape stops. Spotlight turns off. Flashback sound effect is played while stage is in darkness.

SCENE 2 (EGG)

SFX: Spotlight turns on illuminating Egg in frozen starting position – Egg is tucked into a tight ball with head down

Egg is stage right rolling on the floor in a ball looking around, only head is visible, poking out of black sheet .

EGG: *(tired, baby voice)* oh, it's so bright.
(startled) Who..who are you? Where did you all come from?
(gasps excitedly) IT HAPPENED! We've been bornnnn.
Oh I'm so excited, we are going to have so many family adventures, I can't wait to wriggle out of this protective jelly - we'll be eating algae and then hopping over lily pads together in a few short weeks *(smiles, looks to side)*
You're my favourite brother, I'll call you Billy-Bob.

A thin sheet moves slowly over spot light to create shadow

EGG: *(shocked/scared while looking around at brothers and sisters)* What. Was. That?!

Other actors make rain noises by tapping on floor

EGG: (scared) MAAA, MAAA, the rains are hereee.

(head quickly turns to side) BILLY?! Billy-Bob where did you go? (looks to other side, crying) I want my dad

Egg rolls into tighter ball.

Egg freezes in position.

SFX: Spotlight turns off. Stage is dark for approximately 3 seconds.

SCENE 3

SFX: Pond Soundscape starts. Spotlight turns on illuminating Grandma Frog in the frozen position of end SCENE 1. After remaining frozen for approximately 2 seconds Grandma Frog drops gaze back to the photo album and turns the page slowly. Begins hobbling towards Hatchling's pond scene marker while gazing affectionately at the photo album and reading/speaking lines.

GRANDMA FROG: (Speaks in raspy voice) This one must have been taken only a few days later. Yes I moved a lot faster back in the early days (*giggles*). I was certainly eager to make my way out into the world. Some of my brothers and sisters waited a few days longer than me. Luckily, dad waited around to protect us from predators until we were ready. (*Sighs*) I miss dad.

Grandma Frog is now standing next to Hatchling's pond scene marker. Grandma Frog gazes upwards, towards the ceiling as if reflecting on a memory. Grandma Frog freezes in this position.

SFX: Pond Soundscape stops. Spotlight turns off. Flashback sound effect is played while stage is in darkness.

SCENE 4 (HATCHLING)

SFX: Spotlight turns on illuminating Hatchling in frozen starting position – After remaining frozen for 2 seconds, Hatchling wriggles about by moving body sideways, top part of body moves left and right, with arms around hips to represent being inside the egg,

HATCHLING: WOAH! (*eyes widen with expression of surprise, lips widen into the shape of 'O'*) The world looks so big outside! (jumping on tip toes with glee)

(with a thinking pose, looking at the audience with slight frown and lips pouted out) Hmm... it is getting quite tight and squished in this egg. I wonder if I can wriggle out and see how big this world really is!

Hatchling gets ready to make her best push upwards.

HATCHLING: POP! (make sound with party popper, jumps into the air). Yippee! I am finally out! (body wriggles side to side)
I really can't wait to swim like my friends soon and to explore this big wide world!

Hatchling freezes in position.

SFX: Spotlight turns off. Stage is dark for approximately 3 seconds.

SCENE 5

SFX: Pond Soundscape starts. Spotlight turns on illuminating Grandma Frog in the frozen position of end SCENE 3. After remaining frozen for approximately 2 seconds Grandma Frog drops gaze back to the photo album and turns another page slowly. Begins hobbling towards Tadpole's pond scene marker while gazing affectionately at the photo album and reading/speaking lines.

GRANDMA FROG: (*Happily*) Oh I remember this time too!
(Laughs) Goodness me, I got quite the fright when all those changes started

happening! Here I was one moment,
fresh out of my egg and happily
swimming around and then in the next
moment.. Poof! (*Giggles and sighs*)

Grandma Frog is now standing next to Tadpole's pond scene marker. Grandma Frog gazes upwards, towards the ceiling as if reflecting on a memory. Grandma Frog freezes in this position.

SFX: Pond Soundscape stops. Spotlight turns off. Flashback sound effect is played while stage is in darkness.

SCENE 6 (TADPOLE)

SFX: Spotlight turns on illuminating Tadpole in frozen starting position – standing with torso parallel to the floor, arms held tight against sides of the body, torso bent as in mid-swimming motion.

SFX: Egg, Hatchling, Froglet and Adult Frog use containers of water to make lapping water noise for underwater soundscape throughout scene 3. Tadpole begins to move in swimming motion, wiggling their torso and walking towards downstage centre. Singing as it moves.

TADPOLE: (*sing*) **Swim, swim, swim**
 I'm a tadpole
 Swim, swim, swimming along

 Swim, swim, swim
 I'm a tadpole
 Swimming all day lo -
 (*alarmed*) **WOAH!**

Tadpole stops 'swimming'. Looks towards right arm with an expression of concern.

TADPOLE: (*scared*) **What is happening?!**

Right forearm slowly extends out from body starting with the hand and then up to the elbow. Upper arm stays tight to torso.

TADPOLE: Gasp. It's...a...leg! I have my first leg!
Lets see what I can do with this.

Tadpole with an expression of concentration, makes small movements with right arm.

TADPOLE: Hmm...It doesn't seem to do much.
I guess I have to wait until it gets stronger...
(excited) Oh my! Here we go again!

Tadpole looks towards left arm with an expression of amazement. Left forearm slowly extends out from body starting with the hand and then up to the elbow. Upper arm stays tight to torso.

TADPOLE: (excited) Can you believe it?
My second leg!

Tadpole looks out to audience with a huge smile. With an expression of concentration makes slight movements with both arms.

TADPOLE: (sleepily) What a day!
Can't wait to show everyone my new legs.

Tadpole turns and begins swimming motion with torso and walking back to stage marker.

TADPOLE: (sing) **Swim, swim, swim**
I'm a tadpole
Swim, swim, swimming along

Swim, swim, swim
I'm a tadpole
Swimming all day long

(Excited. Speaking into the distance offstage) Hey guys! Come and have a look! I grew my legs!

Tadpole freezes in position.

SFX: Underwater soundscape stops. Spotlight turns off. Stage is dark for approximately 3 seconds.

SCENE 7

SFX: Pond Soundscape starts. Spotlight turns on illuminating Grandma Frog in the frozen position of end SCENE 5. After remaining frozen for approximately 2 seconds Grandma Frog drops gaze back to the photo album and turns another page slowly. Begins hobbling towards Froglet's pond scene marker while gazing affectionately at the photo album and reading/speaking lines.

GRANDMA FROG: *(Happily)* Oh and I could never forget this stage of my life! My lungs and legs had just grown which meant I was able to explore the big wide pond and see all the excitement and danger it had to offer. *(Points to page in photo album. Speaks excitedly)* Ohh look at those young legs! *(Smile fades as Grandma Frog peers down at current old legs, then looks at the audience and then back at legs).* Sighs. Yes, these were exciting times indeed.

Grandma Frog is now standing next to Froglet's pond scene marker. Grandma Frog gazes upwards, towards the ceiling as if reflecting on a memory. Grandma Frog freezes in this position.

SFX: Pond Soundscape stops. Spotlight turns off. Flashback sound effect is played while stage is in darkness.

SCENE 8 (FROGLET)

SFX: Spotlight turns on illuminating Froglet in frozen starting position – lying on the floor with arms and legs out as if swimming

Pats behind self and realises that the tail is much shorter

SFX: Froglet A music (plays for 10 seconds)

(While music plays) froglet does a couple spins to get a better look

FROGLET: My tail is smaller! But my legs are ready
to leeeeeap!

Leaps out of water towards centre stage and takes first breath of air with hand on chest

FROGLET: Mm the pond smells fresh this morning.
I wonder if there are some insects I can
eat?

Froglet licks the air and catches its first bug and rubs tummy in excitement

SFX: Froglet B music (for 30 seconds) *(while music plays) Froglet starts to test out its new legs and hops around in time to the music, getting better and better and also catching more delicious insects.*

All of a sudden hears a bird **SFX: Froglet C music (for 5 seconds)** *and looks around in fear*

FROGLET: What is that scary noise?
Is it a predator?
Does it want to eat me?

SFX: Froglet D music (for 10 seconds) *Froglet hops around frantically and hops back to stage marker. Froglet freezes in position.*

SFX: Spotlight turns off. Stage is dark for approximately 3 seconds.

SCENE 9

SFX: Pond Soundscape starts. Spotlight turns on illuminating Grandma Frog in the frozen position of end SCENE 7. *After remaining frozen for approximately 2 seconds Grandma Frog drops gaze back to the photo album and turns another page slowly. Begins hobbling towards Adult Frog's lily pad scene marker while gazing affectionately at the photo album and reading/speaking lines.*

GRANDMA FROG: *(Affectionately)* Ahh... the twilight years. My days were spent hopping around the pond,

feeding on insects, (turn to look at audience and position hand to mouth as if telling a secret) flies were my favourite, and hanging out with my army.

(More resigned) Yes, I thought those days would never end. This shot must have been taken just before I met Freddie and we settled down to lay eggs of our own. *(Looks back to the audience and speaks proudly)* Freddie had the loudest croak in all the ponds. A friend once told me she could hear him from 3 ponds away!

Grandma Frog is now standing next to Adult Frog's pond scene marker. Grandma Frog gazes upwards, towards the ceiling as if reflecting on a memory. Grandma Frog freezes in this position.

SFX: Pond Soundscape stops. Spotlight turns off. Flashback sound effect is played while stage is in darkness.

SCENE 10 (ADULT FROG)

SFX: Spotlight turns on illuminating Adult Frog in frozen starting position – in a crouched position sitting on a lily pad

Adult Frog leaps up into the air and lands back on the lily pad as if feeling much stronger and bigger than before.

SFX: Adult Frog Music A (for 10 seconds)

(While music plays) Adult Frog slowly turns around while looking down at the blue fabric surrounding her lily pad stage marker as if she is admiring her reflection.

ADULT FROG: Woah! I feel so strong and big.

Adult Frog stretches arms out.

ADULT FROG: What a beautiful day for an afternoon swim.

Adult Frog leaps from the lily pad stage marker onto the blue fabric as if jumping into a pond.

SFX: Adult Frog Music B (for 10 seconds)

ADULT FROG: Look at me go!

Adult Frog prepares for her cool swimming trick by kicking her legs dramatically, giving her a boost out of the water with her arms wide open. She has a big smile on her face as she dives back into the pond and does it again.

*Adult frog finishes her afternoon swim and hops out of the pond. She begins to hop into the grass stage located on the left stage. Adult frog then hears a buzzing sound. **SFX:** Adult Frog Music C (for 5 seconds)*

Adult frog looks up and spots the fly sitting on a tall piece of grass.

SFX: Adult Frog Music D (for 10 seconds)

(While music plays) Adult Frog hops slowly and quietly closer to the grass. She then sticks her tongue out aiming straight for the fly. Successfully catching the fly, the frog jumps up with glee.

Looking around for more flies to eat the frog easily catches them one by one until her belly is full.

ADULT FROG: Wow! I'm so good at this now, but oh my am I full!

The frog leaps back onto her lily pad stage marker and lays down on her back, rubbing her belly with her hand.

SFX: Adult Frog Music E (for 15 seconds)

(While music plays) Adult frog looks up at the sky, watching the sunset.

ADULT FROG: What a wonderful life I have.

Adult Frog rolls on her side with her legs close to her chest and freezes in position.

SFX: Spotlight turns off. Stage is dark for approximately 3 seconds.

SCENE 11

SFX: Pond Soundscape starts. Spotlight turns on illuminating Grandma Frog in the frozen position of end SCENE 9. After remaining frozen for approximately 2 seconds Grandma Frog drops gaze back to the photo album and slowly closes it. Begins hobbling towards rocking chair downstage left and speaks lines.

GRANDMA FROG: *(Affectionately)* Ahh yes, it's been a wonderful life I have lived.
Every stage of my life was filled with change, excitement and danger. I wouldn't have traded it for anything.

SFX: Pond Soundscape stops. Spotlight turns off. Stage is left in darkness for approximately 5 seconds. All stage lights turn on to illuminate the whole stage.

All of the actors unfreeze, smile and stand on their markers.

SFX: Finale song plays (from 4 seconds to 1 minute 33 seconds)

They walk downstage and form a line across the front of the stage in order of appearance: (stage right to stage left) Grandma Frog, Egg, Hatchling, Tadpole, Froglet, Adult Frog.

All actors perform the Finale Dance Sequence (see video in Resources)

At the conclusion of the song, all actors join hands, lift them in the air and take a final bow.

SFX: All stage lights turn off and the stage is dark.

END OF SCRIPT