

Agar Frog Protocol

1. Lay a piece of string or wax craft stick in each frog mold. On the other end, add a piece of tape for students to label with their group name/initials and sun/shade frog.

2. For one tray of frogs, measure 6g agar (or 1 Tbsp), 3g of pigment (or 1 tsp), and 200 mL of water and mix in the Pyrex measuring cup. Stir briskly with the whisk to ensure the powders are completely dissolved. (Scale the recipe for additional trays of frogs as needed.)

3. Using the microwave, heat the mixture in the Pyrex cup for ONE MINUTE. Remove the pyrex cup and stir well with the whisk. Continue heating the mixture in increments of 30 seconds until you see boiling. **NOTE: Carefully watch the liquid in the microwave for boiling and stop as soon as boiling occurs. The cup and mixture will be very hot!**

4. Stir the mixture again with the whisk to make sure all the agar seems to have dissolved. Carefully continue microwaving if chunks remain.

5. Pour the mixture into the molds. See Figures to the right.

6. Let cool completely before removing frogs from mold (about 20-25 minutes at room temperature or 15 minutes in a refrigerator.)

7. To remove frogs, turn the mold upside down and gently push on the underside of the mold.



*Please follow all lab safety guidelines: goggles, lab coat or apron, and oven mitts or silicon hand protectors should be used.