

# Student Worksheets

# Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather

## Student Brainstorm Challenge

Name \_\_\_\_\_

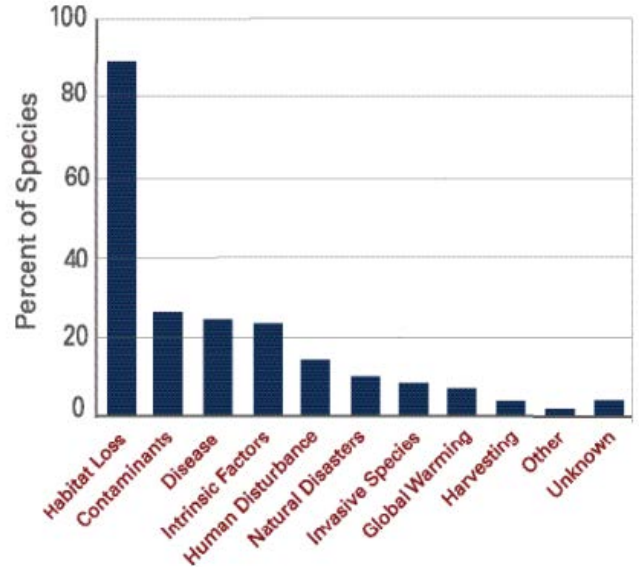
1. Look at the bar graph and answer the following question. What are the 3 largest threats to threatened amphibian species?

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COMPARISON OF RISK FACTORS AFFECTING THREATENED AMPHIBIANS



Based on analysis of 1,177 threatened (CR, EN, and VU) species. Note: more than one factor can threaten a species.

2. **Brainstorm Challenge:**

What kinds of things could change in a frog's habitat or environment that could impact survival? List at least 3 things.

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3. **Brainstorm Challenge:**

What life processes of a frog might climate change affect? \_\_\_\_\_

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What could a frog do to maximize its chance for survival in a warmer climate? \_\_\_\_\_

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In a more variable climate? \_\_\_\_\_

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Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather**  
**Experimental Design**  
Using the Scientific Method

**Problem:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Independent Variable:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dependent Variable:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Question:**

1. How could microhabitat affect an ectotherm? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Hypothesis:**

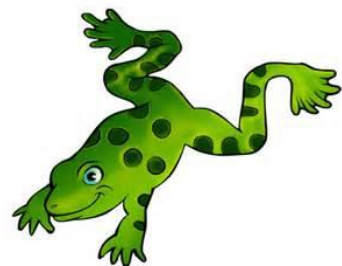
Microhabitat Hypothesis:

Microhabitat choices are **sun** versus **shade**. Fill in the blanks to complete the following hypothesis:

Frogs in the \_\_\_\_\_ warm up faster than frogs in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Protocol:**

Follow the directions to make your agar frog model.



Time of day: \_\_\_\_\_ Temperature: \_\_\_\_\_ Cloud cover (circle one): cloudy partly cloudy clear  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Group Members: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather  
 Data Collection**

**Directions: Be as specific as possible as you complete this form. Provide accurate details.**

|                              | <b>Frog 1</b> | <b>Frog 2</b> | <b>Frog 3</b> | <b>Frog 4</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Frog Coloration              |               |               |               |               |
| Microhabitat<br>(Circle One) | Sun<br>Shade  | Sun<br>Shade  | Sun<br>Shade  | Sun<br>Shade  |

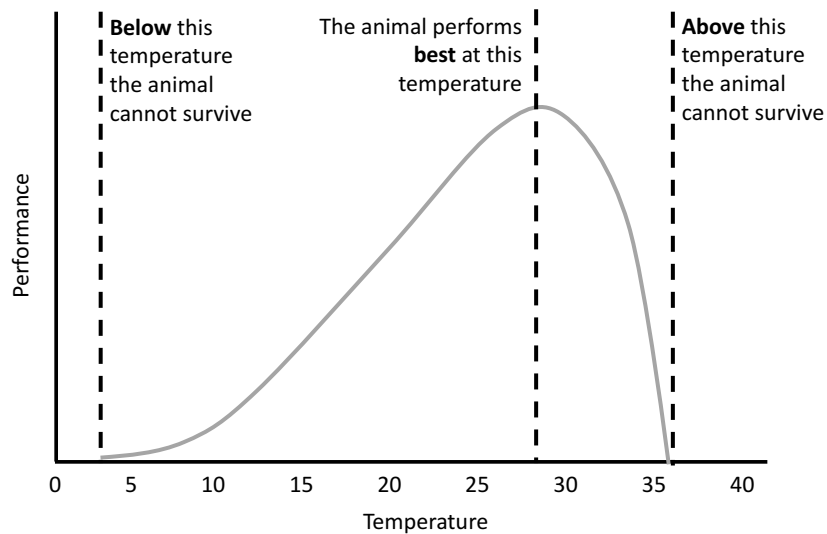
Sketch your frogs in their microhabitats:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Sun Frog(s)   | Shade Frog(s)   |
| Use words to describe the location you sketched above. Include a description of the area to the <b>left and right of the frog, in front of and behind the frog, and above and below the frog.</b> | Use words to describe the location you sketched above. Include a description of the area to the <b>left and right of the frog, in front of and behind the frog, and above and below the frog.</b> |

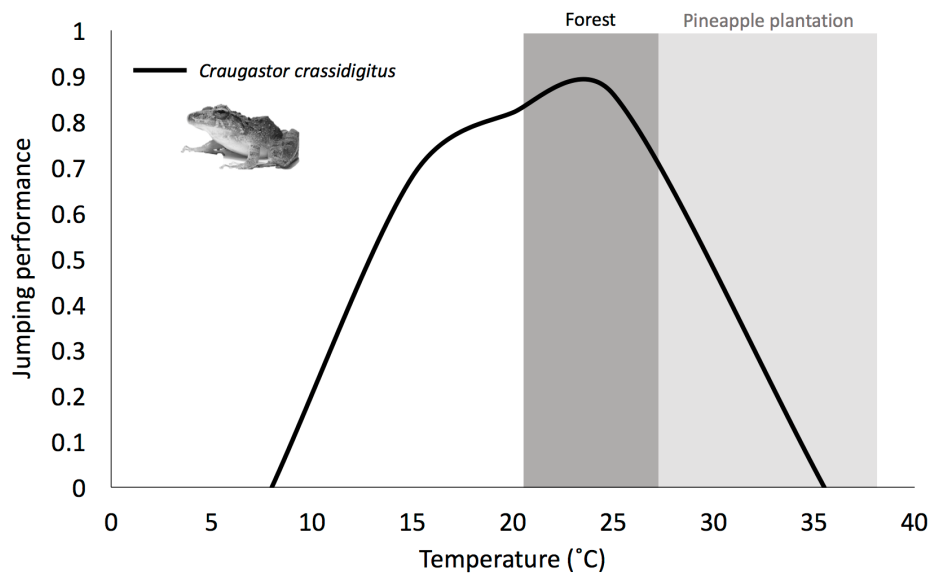




9. Biologists use **thermal performance curves** to understand how well animals' bodies work at different temperatures. Performance can be measured for any activity that an animal's body needs to do that could affect the animal's survival, such as jumping distance or swimming speed. Scientists then measure differences in the animal's ability to do these activities, such as jumping far, at different temperatures. Here is an example of a thermal performance curve:



Using the thermal performance curve for the tropical frog species *Craugastor crassidigitus* below, answer questions a-c. On this graph, the vertical axis is jumping performance, where higher values (near 1) correspond to longer jumps by the frog.



- The highest temperature this species can survive in is \_\_\_\_\_°C.
- This species jumps the farthest at \_\_\_\_\_°C.
- This species usually lives in a forest, which has daytime temperatures of 20-27°C (dark grey shading on graph). Pineapple plantations have daytime temperatures of 27-37°C (light grey shading on graph). If the forest is cleared for a pineapple plantation, do you think this species will be able to survive? Explain your answer.

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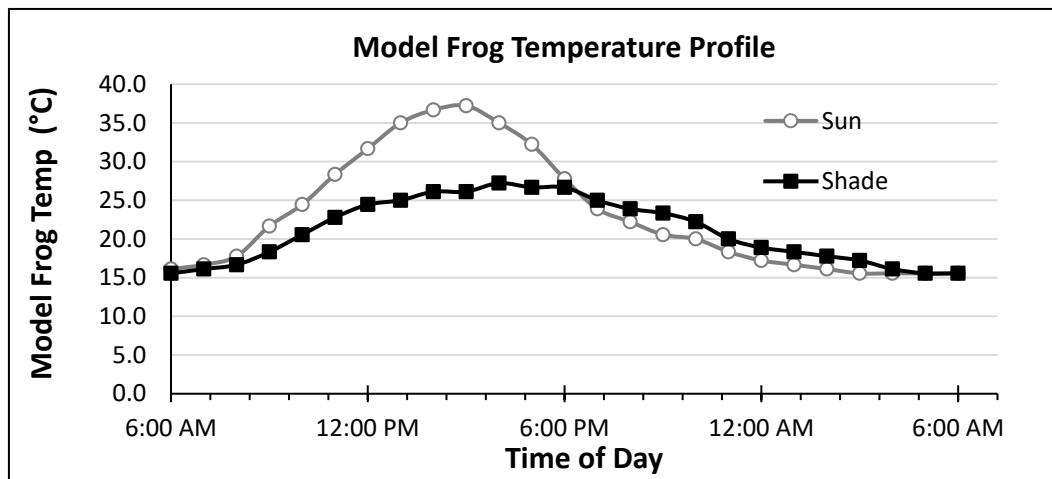


Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather – ANALYSIS

### I. Model Frog Temperature Profile

The data below reflects frog temperatures collected over a 24 hour period. Shade the portion of the graph that corresponds to the time of day when your model frogs were deployed.



### II. Create Your Own Histogram

Use the infrared thermometer data you collected to create a histogram showing the number of times each model frog was recorded in a certain body temperature range.

**Step 1:** Complete the following chart to tally how many times each frog's body temperature was within the given ranges.

| Histogram Tally Chart |              |                |                |              |              |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Bin                   | Range        | Shade #1 Tally | Shade #2 Tally | Sun #1 Tally | Sun #2 Tally |
| 1                     | 0 - 2 °C     |                |                |              |              |
| 2                     | 2.1 - 4 °C   |                |                |              |              |
| 3                     | 4.1 - 6 °C   |                |                |              |              |
| 4                     | 6.1 - 8 °C   |                |                |              |              |
| 5                     | 8.1 - 10 °C  |                |                |              |              |
| 6                     | 10.1 - 12 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 7                     | 12.1 - 14 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 8                     | 14.1 - 16 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 9                     | 16.1 - 18 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 10                    | 18.1 - 20 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 11                    | 20.1 - 22 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 12                    | 22.1 - 24 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 13                    | 24.1 - 26 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 14                    | 26.1 - 28 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 15                    | 28.1 - 30 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 16                    | 30.1 - 32 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 17                    | 32.1 - 34 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 18                    | 34.1 - 36 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 19                    | 36.1 - 38 °C |                |                |              |              |
| 20                    | 38.1 - 40 °C |                |                |              |              |

**Step 2:** Now use the Histogram Tally Chart to create a histogram on a separate sheet provided by your teacher.

**Step 3:** Use your histogram to answer the following questions.

1. What was the range of body temperatures that the 'sun' frogs experienced? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How did the range of body temperatures that the 'shade' frogs experienced compare to those of the 'sun' frogs? \_\_\_\_\_

Remember that biologists use thermal performance curves to assess an organism's overall ability to survive at given temperatures. Let's take a look at how the frog's performance in the different microhabitats is impacted and how they may be impacted by disease:

**Place the Frog's Jumping Performance Curve over your histogram.**

1. Did any of your data fall outside the upper temperature limit for this species? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Look back at the Model Frog Temperature Profile in I, at what time of day and in which habitat did this occur? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What day-to-day activities might be affected by the frog's jumping performance? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. What other environmental factors could affect a frog's behavior? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Next, place the Chytrid Fungus Thermal Performance Curve over your histogram.**

5. At what temperature was the fungal population growing fastest? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Above what temperature does the fungus no longer grow? \_\_\_\_\_

7. For how many hours of the day was each frog too hot for the fungus to grow on its body?

# of hours for the 'shade' frog \_\_\_\_\_ # of hours for the 'sun' frog \_\_\_\_\_

**Next, place both the Frog's Jumping Performance Curve and Chytrid Fungus Thermal Performance Curve over your histogram.**

8. Keeping in mind the chytrid fungus doesn't grow above 30°C, look at the jumping performance curve again. How does each frog perform:

Below 30°C? \_\_\_\_\_

At 30°C? \_\_\_\_\_

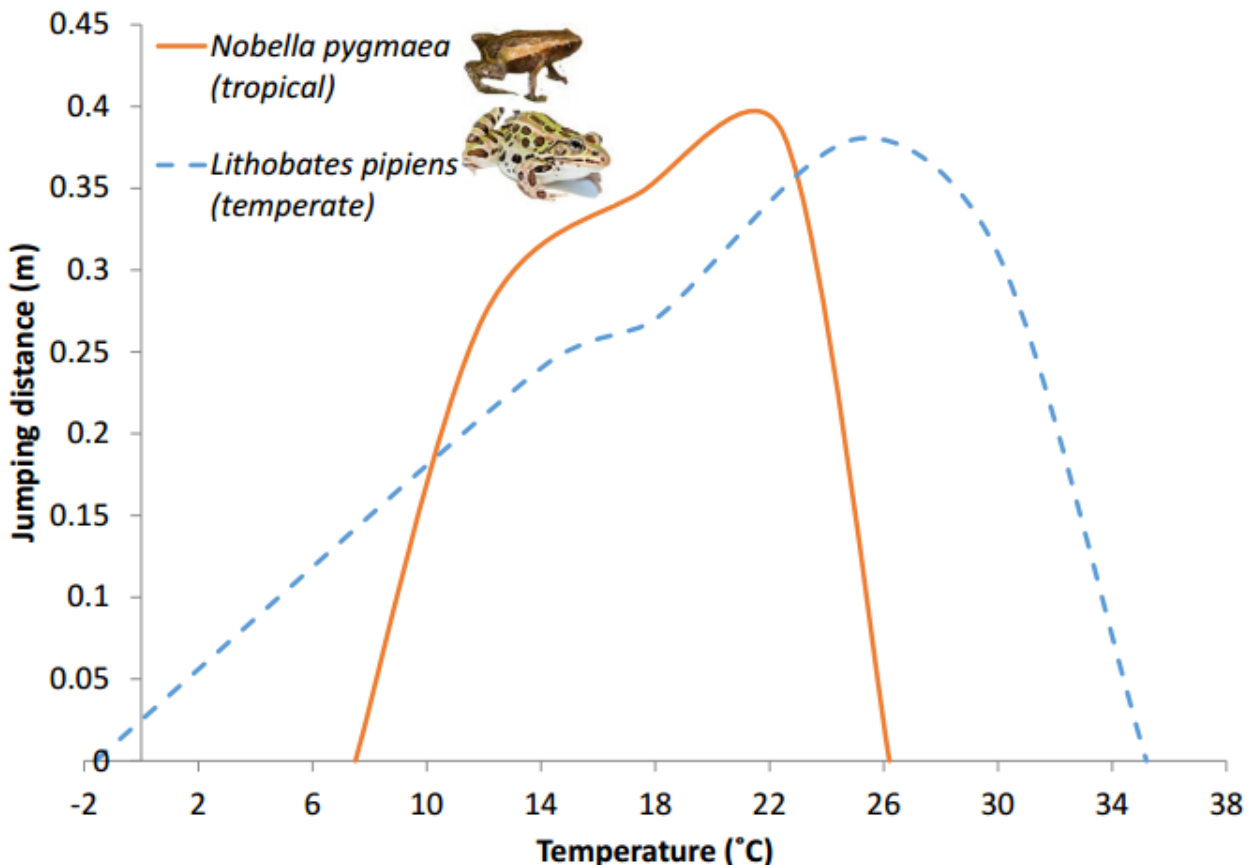
Above 30°C? \_\_\_\_\_

Now let's take a look at two species of frogs from different climates:

**Directions: Read each statement carefully. Answer the question in the space provided or perform the requested task.**

1. Look below at the Jumping Distance Performance Curves for a Tropical vs. Temperate frog.  
At what high temperature is the tropical frog's jumping performance zero? \_\_\_\_\_  
At what high temperature is the temperate frog's jumping performance zero? \_\_\_\_\_  
What does this indicate about the frog's health at this temperature? \_\_\_\_\_
2. At 30°C, draw a straight vertical line that extends from the x-axis until it reaches the temperate frog performance curve. As you learned, the chytrid fungus cannot survive above 30°C. Shade the area of the frog's performance curve where it is too hot for the chytrid fungus to grow.
3. Can the tropical frog survive at a temperature outside of the upper limit for the chytrid fungus? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What does this indicate about the tropical frog's ability to fight infection? \_\_\_\_\_

How might climate change affect the relationship between the frog and the fungus? \_\_\_\_\_



Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather

Note to Teachers: Each student will need a 'Sun' frog and 'Shade' frog data set to compile tally marks for their histogram.

| Agar Model Data |                | Agar Model Data |                |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Sun Frog        |                | Shade Frog      |                |
| Time            | Temperature °C | Time            | Temperature °C |
| 6:00 AM         | 16.1           | 6:00 AM         | 15.6           |
| 7:00 AM         | 16.7           | 7:00 AM         | 16.1           |
| 8:00 AM         | 17.8           | 8:00 AM         | 16.7           |
| 9:00 AM         | 21.7           | 9:00 AM         | 18.3           |
| 10:00 AM        | 24.4           | 10:00 AM        | 20.6           |
| 11:00 AM        | 28.3           | 11:00 AM        | 22.8           |
| 12:00 PM        | 31.7           | 12:00 PM        | 24.4           |
| 1:00 PM         | 35             | 1:00 PM         | 25             |
| 2:00 PM         | 36.7           | 2:00 PM         | 26.1           |
| 3:00 PM         | 37.2           | 3:00 PM         | 26.1           |
| 4:00 PM         | 35             | 4:00 PM         | 27.2           |
| 5:00 PM         | 32.2           | 5:00 PM         | 26.7           |
| 6:00 PM         | 27.8           | 6:00 PM         | 26.7           |
| 7:00 PM         | 23.9           | 7:00 PM         | 25             |
| 8:00 PM         | 22.2           | 8:00 PM         | 23.9           |
| 9:00 PM         | 20.6           | 9:00 PM         | 23.3           |
| 10:00 PM        | 20.2           | 10:00 PM        | 22.2           |
| 11:00 PM        | 18.3           | 11:00 PM        | 20.2           |
| 12:00 AM        | 17.2           | 12:00 AM        | 18.9           |
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| 2:00 AM         | 16.1           | 2:00 AM         | 17.8           |
| 3:00 AM         | 15.6           | 3:00 AM         | 17.2           |
| 4:00 AM         | 15.6           | 4:00 AM         | 16.1           |
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| 6:00 AM         | 15.6           | 6:00 AM         | 15.6           |

| Agar Model Data |                | Agar Model Data |                |
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| 5:00 AM         | 15.6           | 5:00 AM         | 15.6           |
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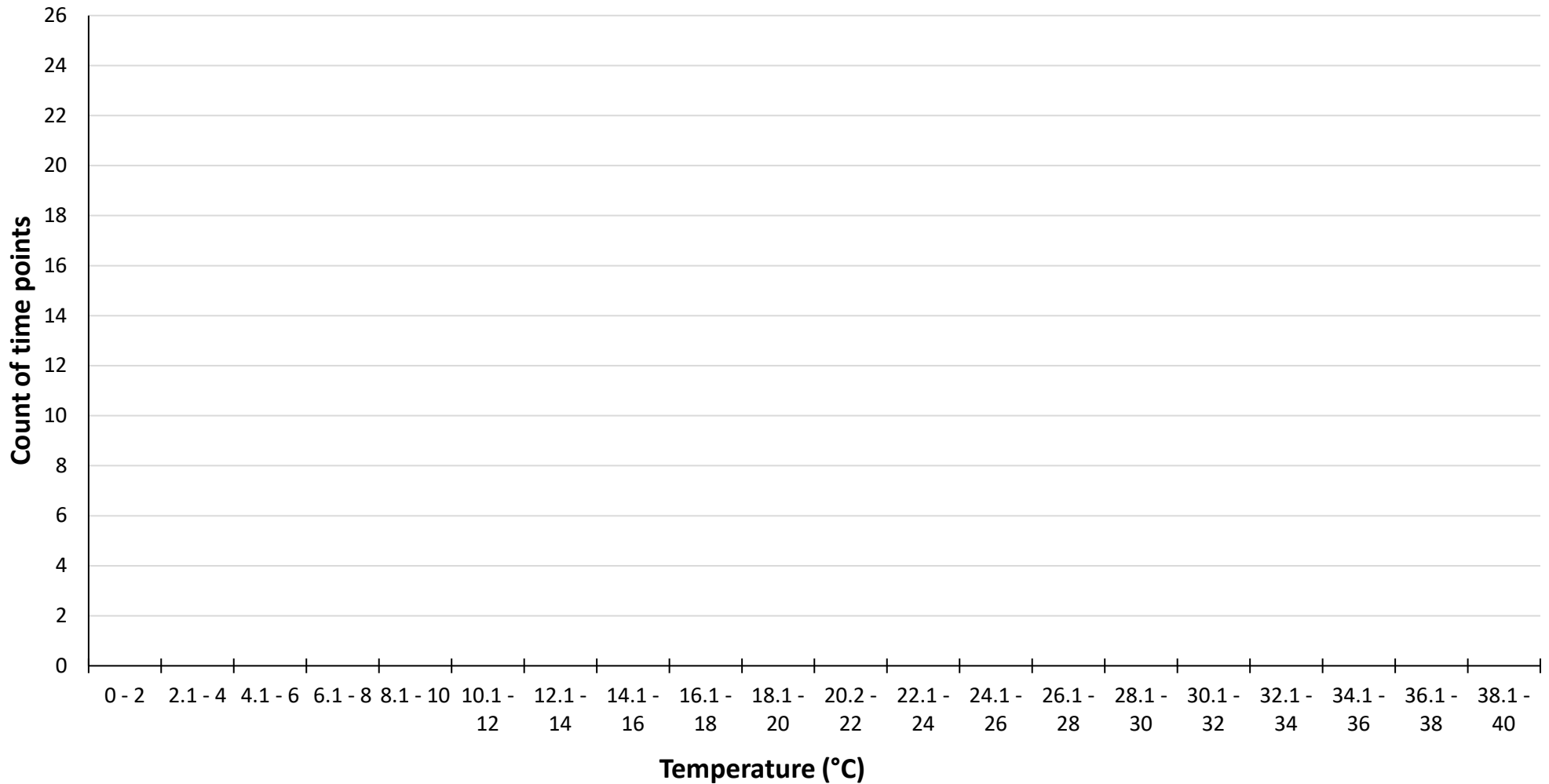
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

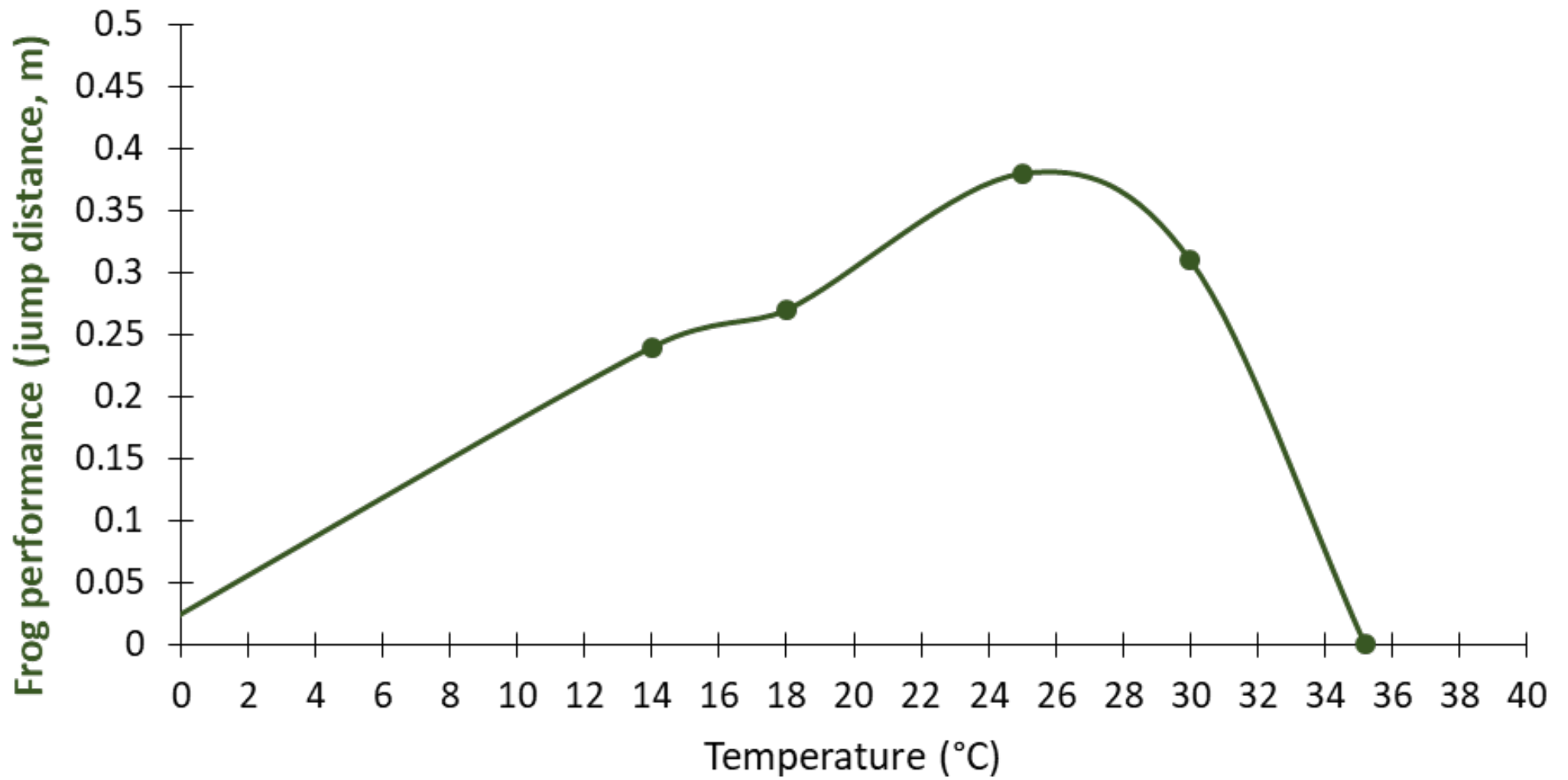
## Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather

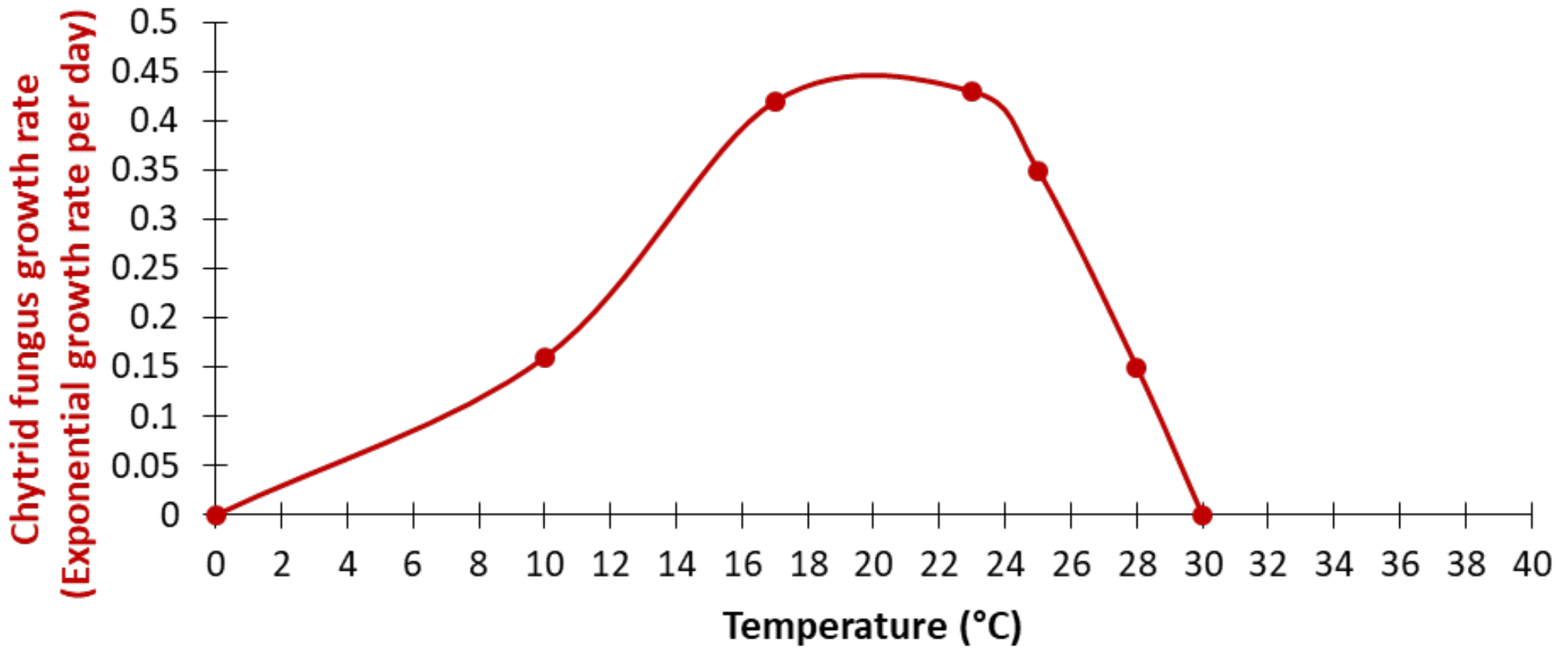
### Histogram Worksheet

**Directions:** Use the 'Totals' from the Histogram Tally Chart to plot the number of hours spent at each temperature range. You will draw a separate column for the 'sun' and 'shade' data for each temperature bin, if there is at least one tally mark. Use one color for plotting the sun data and a different color for shade data. Include a legend.

**Agar Model Frog Temperatures**









## Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather

### Claim-Evidence-Reasoning

**Directions:** Read the prompt carefully. Write a scientific explanation in response to the prompt. Be sure to 1. state your **claim**, a conclusion that answers the prompt, 2. Use **evidence**, data that support your claim, and 3. Provide **reasoning**, a justification that links the claim with the evidence.

**Prompt:** Explain how climate change might affect frog performance and the relationship between a frog and the chytrid fungus and how that could impact frog species' survival. Be sure to include evidence from the 'Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather' module.

**HINT:** Use your analysis worksheet to obtain data you can use to support your answer.

### Scoring Rubric:

| Component  | Level  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
|  | 0  | 1  | 2   |
| <b>Claim:</b> A conclusion that answers the original question  | Does not make a claim, or makes an inaccurate claim.   | Makes an accurate but incomplete claim.  | Makes an accurate and complete claim.   |
| <b>Evidence:</b> Scientific data that support the claim. The data need to be appropriate and sufficient to support the claim.  | Does not provide evidence, or only provides inappropriate evidence (Evidence that does not support claim). | Provides appropriate, but insufficient evidence to support claim. May include some inappropriate evidence.                                 | Provides appropriate and sufficient evidence to support claim.  |
| <b>Reasoning:</b> A justification that links the claim and the evidence. It shows why the data counts as evidence by using appropriate and sufficient scientific principles. | Does not provide reasoning, or only provides reasoning that does not link evidence to claim.               | Provides reasoning that links the claim and evidence. Repeats the evidence and/or includes some scientific principles, but not sufficient. | Provides reasoning that links evidence to claim. Includes appropriate and sufficient scientific principles. |

(McNeill and Krajcik, 2008)

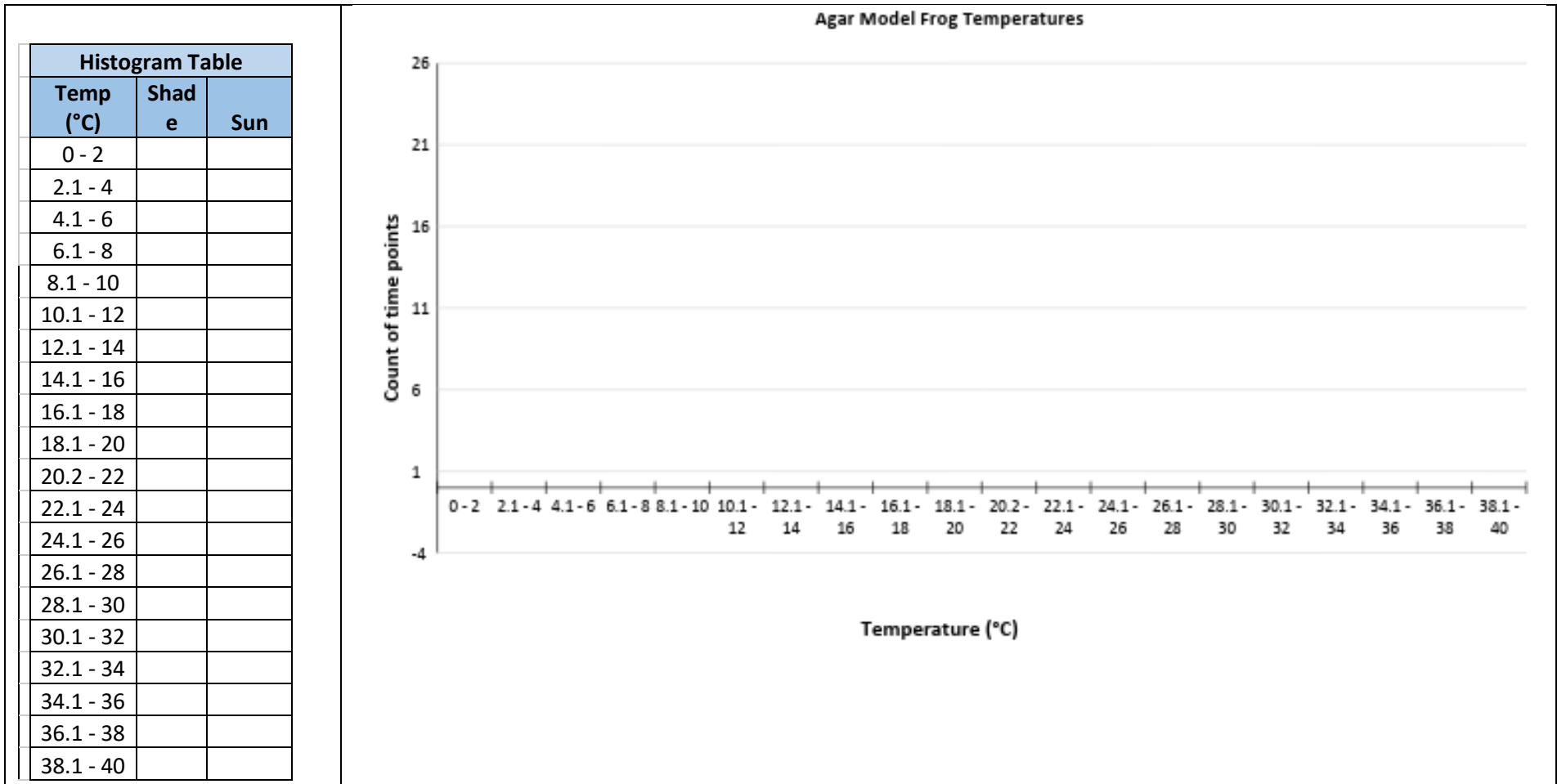
Group Members \_\_\_\_\_



Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Problem: \_\_\_\_\_

Include your data and histogram below. Make sure to make labels for shade versus sun frogs.



Group Members \_\_\_\_\_



Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**Claim** (hypothesis): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Evidence:** *Our data shows that...* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Reasoning:** *This means that....* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Ectotherm ER: A Final Report (Total: 15 pts)

Explain how climate change might affect the relationship between a frog and the chytrid fungus. Be sure to include evidence from the 'Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather' module.

**STEP 1: Use a graphic organizer to plan your response.**

**Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

| <b>Reasons</b>   | <b>Evidence (Include temperature references from graphs)</b> |
|--|--|
| <b>Reason 1</b><br><br><b>Optimal thermal performance of chytrid fungus overlaps with frog's optimal performance temperature</b>                         |  |
| <b>Reason 2</b><br><br><b>With unexpected climate changes, an increase in temperature may affect the number of areas with a chytrid fungus outbreak.</b> |  |
| <b>Concluding Sentence:</b>  |  |

## **STEP 2: Use your graphic organizer to write your final report.**

### **Friendly Reminders:**

- Include a topic and concluding sentence
- Skip lines as you write. Indent 1<sup>st</sup> line of a new paragraph.
- Capitalize the beginning of sentences, all proper nouns & the word “I”.
- Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation.
- Read your work aloud and make any necessary changes before turning it in.
- Use formal language, not slang or texting-type words.
- If typing it, use Times font, 12 pt font, double-space. Type full name & title at top.

**NOTE:** You may hand write in class and type it at home, if you would like it to be typed, but that is not necessary.

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ectotherm ER: A Final Report

## Peer Review/ Grading Rubric

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Peer Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Identify if the student completed the following items. If they did mention the item in their paragraph, mark their points in the 'Your Score' column. If it is missing, circle the item description so they can revise their paper.

| Student Name:   | Your Score | Points Possible |
|---|------------|-----------------|
| <b>I. Reason 1: The student should mention.....</b>                               |            |                 |
| A. optimal thermal performance of a frog including temperature(s)                 |            | 2               |
| B. optimal thermal performance of chytrid fungus including temperature(s)         |            | 2               |
| C. the overlap of the temperatures and what that means (in separate sentence(s)). |            | 3               |
|   |            |                 |
| <b>II. Reason 2: The student should mention.....</b>                              |            |                 |
| A. definition of climate change   |            | 2               |
| B. what can cause climate change  |            | 2               |
| C. how chytrid affects a frog's body  |            | 2               |
| D. how quickly a frog can perish when affected with chytrid                       |            | 2               |
| <b>Additional Remarks:</b>  |            |                 |
| <b>Final Score</b>  |            |                 |

# Answer Keys

# Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather

## Student Brainstorm Challenge

Name \_\_\_\_\_ **ANSWER KEY**

1. Look at the bar graph and answer the following question. What are the 3 largest threats to threatened amphibian species?

**Habitat Loss**

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**Contaminants**

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**Disease**

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2. **Brainstorm Challenge:**

What kinds of things could change in a frog's habitat or environment that could impact survival? List at least 3 things.

**Answers will vary but could include: pollution,**

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**introduction of predator/competitor, habitat**

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**loss or modification, climate changes, loss of**

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**food resources, etc.**

3. **Brainstorm Challenge:**

What life processes of a frog might climate change affect? **Answers will vary but could include: foraging**

**(hunting for food), escaping predators, mating/reproduction, metabolism, immune defenses, ...**

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**Answers will vary, could include:**

What could a frog do to maximize its chance for survival in a warmer climate? **seek shade when temperatures**

**are too hot, burrow to find cooler temperatures, aestivate, enter cool water, migrate to an area with a**

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**cooler climate (e.g., higher latitude, higher elevation), come out of hibernation earlier in spring...**

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In a more variable climate? **Answers will vary, could include: move back and forth between microhabitats,**

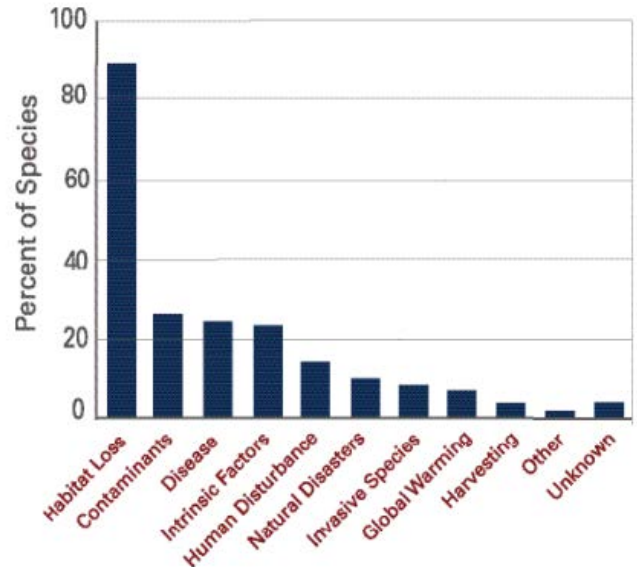
**live near a variety of microhabitats, be able to adjust timing of hibernation and breeding accordingly, be**

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**able to find shelter from both heat and cold and to find water when needed.**

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COMPARISON OF RISK FACTORS AFFECTING THREATENED AMPHIBIANS



Based on analysis of 1,177 threatened (CR, EN, and VU) species.  
Note: more than one factor can threaten a species.





Group Members: ANSWER KEY

**Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather**  
**Experimental Design Teacher Answer Key**  
Using the Scientific Method

Problem: How do we investigate the impact of microhabitat on frog temperature?

Independent Variable: Microhabitat

Dependent Variable: Frog's Body Temperature (°C)

Question:

1. How could microhabitat affect an ectotherm? (Answers may vary)

**Sample response:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Different microhabitats offer frogs different availability of:** \_\_\_\_\_

- heat • water/moisture • cooling • camouflage • exposure to predators**

Hypothesis:

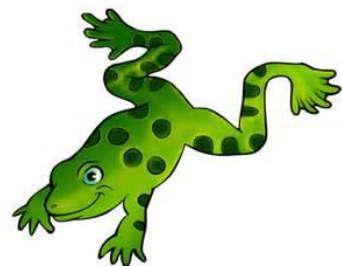
Microhabitat Hypothesis:

Microhabitat choices are **sun** versus **shade**. Fill in the blanks to complete the following hypothesis:

Frogs in the sun warm up faster than frogs in the shade.

Protocol:

Follow the directions to make your agar frog model.



Name: ANSWER KEY

## Frogs that can take the heat expected to fare better in a changing world

Climate change may outpace deforestation as habitat threat in tropics

1. True or False: Frogs are disappearing globally. TRUE
2. What is thermal tolerance? "the ability to withstand higher temperatures" according to the article.  
The range of temperatures that an organism can withstand and still survive is also acceptable.
3. What is the full scientific name for the fungus referred to as Bd, or the amphibian chytrid?  

|                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Batrachochytrium</u> | <u>dendrobatidis</u> |
| (Genus)                 | (species)            |
4. Why is this fungus being studied? Because it threatens the health of amphibian populations.  
It is a rather newly discovered pathogen and scientists are still learning about it.
5. In which environment does Bd grow best?
  - a. hot environment
  - b. cool environment
6. Which frog would be more likely to escape infection by the fungus?
  - a. a frog with high thermal tolerance
  - b. a frog with low thermal tolerance
7. What two factors may lead to more frog disease outbreaks, according to Brian Todd, Associate Professor of Conservation Biology in the UC Davis Department of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology?
  - a. climate change
  - b. pollution
  - c. pathogen transport facilitated by globalization
  - d. increasing numbers of mosquitos
8. According to the research findings presented in the article, which may occur faster?
  - a. loss of thermally suitable habitat due to climate change
  - b. loss of habitat due to deforestation

## Ectotherm ER: Frogs Under the Weather

### Claim-Evidence-Reasoning

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**HINT:** Use your analysis worksheet to obtain data you can use to support your answer.

### Scoring Rubric:

| Component   | Level   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
|   | 0   | 1   | 2  |
| <b>Claim:</b> A conclusion that answers the original question   | Does not make a claim, or makes an inaccurate claim.<br><hr/> States that climate change will not impact the relationship or generalizes that it's "all good" or "all bad"  | Makes an accurate but incomplete claim.<br><hr/> States that frogs will be affected differently by the fungus in different environments but neglects to address the performance cost of being in a warmer climate   | Makes an accurate and complete claim.<br><hr/> States that frogs in warmer climates may be better suited to fight the infections, but they may not be able to perform basic survival tasks, so only the subset of species that can perform at high temperatures will survive in warmer climates                            |
| <b>Evidence:</b> Scientific data that support the claim. The data need to be appropriate and sufficient to support the claim. | Does not provide evidence, or only provides inappropriate evidence (Evidence that does not support claim).<br><hr/> Does not use the performance data from the frogs and growth curve of the fungus to consider ideal temperatures for survival | Provides appropriate, but insufficient evidence to support claim. May include some inappropriate evidence.<br><hr/> Only takes into account one piece of the evidence, for example that warmer temperatures kill the fungus, but does not address the performance curve of the frog | Provides appropriate and sufficient evidence to support claim.<br><hr/> Uses the histogram with the frog performance curve plus the fungus growth curve to argue that increasing temperatures will impact the organisms differently: The fungus dies at higher temperatures, but some frog species cannot perform survival |

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  |   |   | activities at those high temperatures, while others would be able to survive.   |
| <b>Reasoning:</b> A justification that links the claim and the evidence. It shows why the data counts as evidence by using appropriate and sufficient scientific principles. | Does not provide reasoning, or only provides reasoning that does not link evidence to claim.<br><hr/> Provides an inappropriate reasoning like “warming climates will be bad for all organisms” | Provides reasoning that links the claim and evidence. Repeats the evidence and/or includes some scientific principles, but not sufficient.<br><hr/> Repeats the evidence or provides an incomplete generalization like “frogs will no longer be affected by the fungus, so increasing temperatures should be beneficial for frog species” | Provides reasoning that links evidence to claim. Includes appropriate and sufficient scientific principles.<br><hr/> Includes a complete reasoning that takes into account that some frog species will survive with warming climates because they will not be impacted by the fungus and are acclimated to warm temperatures. However, other species will die as a result of low performance at high temperatures rather than fungal infection. |

(adapted from: McNeill and Krajcik, 2008)

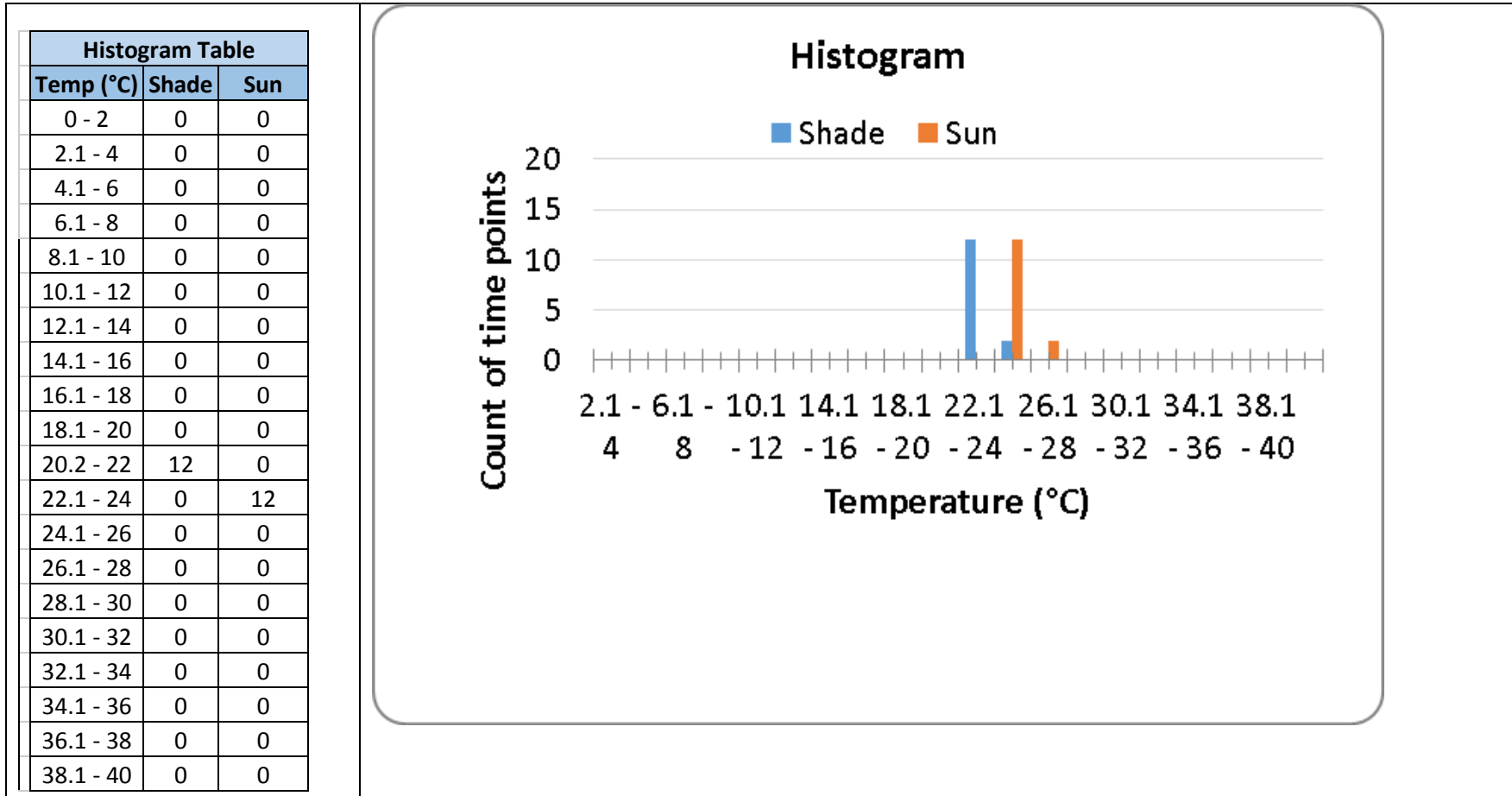
Group Members ANSWER KEY



Project Title: ECTOTHERM ER: FROGS UNDER THE WEATHER

Problem: How do we investigate the impact of microhabitat on frog temperature?

. Include your data and histogram below. Make sure to make labels for shade versus sun frogs.



Group Members ANSWER KEY



Project Title: ECTOTHERM ER: FROGS UNDER THE WEATHER

**Claim** (hypothesis): Frogs in the sun warm up faster than frogs in the shade.

**Evidence:** *Our data shows that...* the frogs in the shade were 20.2-22 degrees Celsius a total of 12 times, whereas the frogs in the sun were 22.1-24 degrees Celsius 12 times.

**Reasoning:** *This means that....* the frogs that live in a sunny microhabitat experience average temperatures that are a few degrees warmer than frogs that live in a shady microhabitat. This might impact the frog's physiological performance including its susceptibility to the chytrid fungus.