WHY DO FROGS (amphibians) MATTER SO MUCH?

他们都既是捕食者又是猎物。他们捕食一些动物，同时也被其他动物捕食，因此他们做了一些有用的工作，比如害虫控制。

大多数青蛙吃讨厌的昆虫，这些昆虫破坏我们的作物，并且携带可能使人患病的致命疾病。

他们为各种动物提供食物，如鱼、鳄鱼、乌龟、鸟类等，有些这些动物也为人类提供食物，所有这些动物都对生态系统有益。

它们非常有用，因为它们的内部结构与其它动物非常相似。它们被用来测试新药。学生们过去常常解剖它们，但现在计算机提供了类似的经验，但不需要杀死那么多青蛙。

青蛙的皮肤可以制造可能治愈多种人类疾病的东西，包括艾滋病、心脏病和癌症。
Frog skin soaks up matter so easily that harmful substances in the environment which could threaten human beings can be noted early... scientists call them “nature’s indicators”.

Frogs provide an “early warning systems” for environmental troubles... they are the first kind of animals to be affected by problems in the environment.

Frogs are a huge biological family with 6722 species in the world. Each species or “kind” holds unique genes, DNA, any of which could provide cures for illness or models for creating life saving chemical or mechanical items.

Frogs make wonderful sounds at night, croaking and “ribbiting”. Almost any water body might have frogs in it providing comforting rhythmic music to fall asleep by. Frogs are (usually) friendly and safe providing a wonderful way to introduce small brothers and sisters to wildlife.

Frogs have been culturally important for a very long time... stories about them normally indicate good things.

Frogs are irreplaceable as innocent ambassadors of the wild. Think how many things we use have frogs on them: stickpins, ties, underwear, pajams, jewelry, clothing, toys, table cloths, curio carvings... on and on.

Frogs are known for one bad thing only... warts... and that isn’t even true.

They are an integral part of Biodiversity.
SOUTH ASIAN AMPHIBIANS -- HOW MANY KINDS?

HOW MANY?

There are more than 600 kinds (species) of amphibians which occur naturally in South Asia. About 300 kinds of them occur only in South Asia and NOWHERE ELSE. We call these “endemic” … found naturally in one place and no other place (naturally). Rest of these we call “non-endemic”. They occur in South Asia and other places as well.

The Three Groups of Amphibians are

Anura (frogs and toads) -- normal looking froggy types

Caudata or Urodela (newts and salamanders) -- lizardey-looking creatures

Gymnophionia or Apoda (caecilians -- Limbless amphibians) – wormo-wallahs
WHY WE SHOULD WORRY about frogs?

There are so many Threats of Amphibians

Threats to Amphibians:
• increased UV radiation
• pollution & pesticides
• alien species
• climate change
• over collection
• as well as disease so

Aside from being so useful and charming ... they are very very old in the world ...

 rek Frogs are older than your oldest elder and older than the human species on the earth.

 rek Frogs have lived on Earth for more than 36 crore years but NOW a third to half of all kinds could vanish in the next 2 decades!

 rek Remember dinosaurs? They vanished from the Earth. Now our Earth is in trouble like that again ... massive extinctions of frogs have been predicted.

 rek For amphibians (frogs) it is particularly bad ... 2 or 3 kinds face extinction for every one kind of threatened bird or mammal.

 rek We should protect them for the same reasons we respect and protect our grandparents and great grandparents.

Because it is our duty.
IS THERE A SOLUTION?

There is a plan. If everyone does their part, it will be a solution.

All the amphibian scientists in the world have a strategy called the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP).

ACAP consists of research, assessment, in-situ (on-site) conservation, frozen zoo, and education awareness.

All the scientific breeding facilities (zoos, research labs, private hobbiiests, etc.) in the world have a plan to rescue species that can’t be saved in the wild.

This plan is called the Amphibian Ark which will rescue frogs and keep them in “protective custody” until the threats have been overcome and then return them to the wild if at all possible. They may also collect samples for several frozen zoos in the world.

Under this plan, hundreds of kinds of frogs and other amphibians will be saved from extinction - they will NOT vanish.

CAN I HELP?

Yes, you can help by learning about the amphibian crisis ... the frog misfortune ... and tell others.

You can help by telling your friends, your teachers, your parents and your politicians and policy makers about it.

You can learn about frogs generally ... so that you can explain what we will lose by losing amphibians.

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