

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## Introducing a Research Report

Read this example of a research report.

### Writing Model

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### Frogs on the Edge

When people think about endangered animals, they do not usually think of frogs. Frogs are supposedly easy to find anywhere. In fact, they live nearly everywhere on Earth. But frogs are disappearing quickly, due to human activity and a dangerous fungus. They may even be on the edge of extinction.

Scientists know of at least 5,000 species of frogs. Like toads, newts, and salamanders, frogs are amphibians, which means that they live part of their lives on land and part of their lives in water. Frogs start out in the water as tadpoles, breathing through gills. They feed on algae and plants. As they change into adult frogs, they lose their gills and grow legs. Adult frogs live on land and in water. They eat insects, worms, and other small animals.

Chemical pollutants such as pesticides threaten frog populations. Because they live on land and in water, frogs are exposed to pollutants in both places. Frogs breathe through their skin, so chemicals enter their bodies more easily than for animals that breathe through their noses. A frog's diet also exposes it to pollution, because the insects and small animals that the frog eats live in the same polluted environment.

Loss of habitat also endangers frog populations. People drain wetlands and cut down forests so they can have land for farms, businesses, and houses. As a result, frogs and other animals lose their homes, and food becomes scarcer. According to *FrogObserver*, "Frogs cannot adapt to changes in their habitat like other animals can." Because frogs must compete with other animals to find food, many of them die of starvation.

Human activities have affected frog populations for many years. In the early 1990s, an even more serious problem for frogs appeared. In *A World of Frogs*, Maynard Ellietta states that "suddenly, scientists around the world noticed that frogs were disappearing at an alarming rate, even in places where there were few humans." In 1997, scientists discovered that frogs were dying from a type of fungus. The fungus grows on the skin of frogs and in the mouths of tadpoles. Scientists suspect that the fungus stops frogs from breathing. So, in less than 20 years, the fungus has wiped out many frog populations throughout the world, except in Asia.