

1982

Frog Population on Decline

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Recommended Citation

(1982) "Frog Population on Decline," *Iowa Science Teachers Journal*: Vol. 19: No. 2, Article 5.

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youth. This will better guarantee that we achieve our potential. We have entered an age when we can no longer prepare youth to merely exist in our world.

Too little importance has been given to aerospace education in recent years. Space exploration has become commonplace and taken for granted. Conditions are ripe for a new emphasis. The growing interest is gratifying and the need is real.

Science teachers have historically done the better job of imparting aerospace education, but there is more to do. If we are to be successful, it is going to require cooperative effort. Those willing to join this effort, welcome. Hopefully, we will achieve together.

If you are interested in additional information in regard to the Aerospace Education Council of Iowa, contact Jerry McMurray, Education Specialist, Aeronautics Division, Iowa Department of Transportation, Des Moines Municipal Airport, Des Moines, Iowa 50321, or phone (515) 281-6518.

Frog Population on Decline

The frog for many people represents a most memorable event of their high school days. But the frog soon may be a thing of the past in the high school biology class. There is a growing frog shortage.

Millions of frogs are used in the United States each year in elementary and high schools, colleges, and medical schools, according to Richard J. Wasserug, a University of Chicago anatomist and frog expert. Additionally, frogs also are used in biomedical research and some people eat frogs.

Suppliers who collect most of these frogs from ponds now often find the ponds bare. The frog population is dwindling, Prof. Wasserug said, as humans encroach upon their environment by bulldozing ponds, constructing highways over migration paths, and polluting waters in which they lay their eggs, grow from tadpoles to adults, and hibernate.

Insecticides also wash into frog ponds or are inbibed in insects, taking their toll. Frogs are insect predators.

The frog is one of the best experimental animals for studying genetics. Next to the mouse, the frog is the most frequently used experimental animal.

DTS Newsletter
Feb. 1982