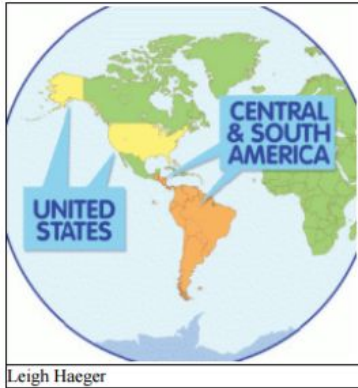


Vanishing Frogs

Why Are so Many Frog Species Disappearing?



Why did dozens of harlequin frog species start vanishing in the late 1980s? Scientists studying the brightly colored frogs might have solved the mystery. The experts blame a skin fungus for causing the frogs to die off. A fungus is a form of life that breaks down dead animals or plants. It can also cause disease in living things.

Harlequin frogs are not the only creatures in danger of dying out because of the disease. "This fungus is killing amphibians all over the world," scientist Cynthia Carey told *Weekly Reader*.

An **amphibian** is an animal with a backbone that spends part of its life in water and part on land. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are amphibians. They are **cold-blooded**, which means their body temperature depends on their environment.

Vanishing Frogs

A Future for Frogs?



Scientists have been working to save the world's amphibians. Many of these creatures have already become **extinct**, or died out completely. Disease is not the only danger for amphibians. Their **habitat** is being destroyed as people cut down trees in the areas where the animals live. Hunting, pollution, and weather changes are also contributing to the problem.

Is there any good news for frogs and other amphibians? New findings would lead to more research, says Carey. The research could help scientists save the remaining animals before the fungus spreads more.

Vanishing Frogs

1. An amphibian
 - a. is cold blooded and extinct.
 - b. has a backbone and lives on land and water.
 - c. lives on land and water and is extinct.

2. Which are amphibians? **Circle All**
 - a. Frogs, salamanders and turtles
 - b. Salamanders, toads and frogs
 - c. Snakes, turtles and fish
 - d. Toads, fish and salamanders

3. According to the passage, some things that negatively affect the frog's' habitat are
 - a. Weather changes, hunting, and pollution
 - b. Disease, scientific experiments, and hunting
 - c. Scientific experiments, weather changes, and disease
 - d. Hunting, pollution, and scientific experiments

4. What do experts blame for causing harlequin frogs species to start vanishing in the late 1980s?
 - a. Global warming
 - b. Lack of food
 - c. Heart disease
 - d. A skin fungus

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5. What is the main idea of this passage?
