

## Aussie frog hospital to close (Sun 20 Mar, 2005)

### WARM-UPS

**CHAT:** Talk in pairs or groups about frogs / hospitals / vets / pets / kangaroos and koalas / wheelchairs / ambulances / ...Change topic / partner frequently to increase conversation.

**FROG BRAINSTORM:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word 'frog'. Share your words with your partner / group and talk about them.

**FROGS:** In pairs/groups, talk about frogs. Write down five questions about frogs – one question under each of these headings:

- Frogs and food
- Frogs as pets
- Frogs and cuteness
- Frogs and koalas
- Frogs and hospitals
- (Other headings?)

Ask your questions to your partner/group. If your group has two questions the same, you must think of another question.

**2-MINUTE FROG DEBATES:** Students face each other in pairs and engage in the following (for-fun) 2-minute debates. Students A are assigned the first argument, students B the second. Rotate pairs to ensure a lively pace and noise level is kept:

- a. Frogs are cute. vs. Yuk! How can you say that?
- b. Australians should give money to the frog hospital. vs. Hospitals for people are more important.
- c. Frogs' legs taste like chicken. vs. Frogs' legs taste like frogs' legs.
- d. Frogs make excellent pets. vs. Hamsters are more interesting.
- e. We should spend money to protect frogs. Different species become extinct every day. vs. Survival of the fittest.
- f. Frogs are very useful creatures. vs. Dogs are more useful.
- g. Humans developed from frogs millions of years ago. vs. Don't be ridiculous.
- h. Frogs are dangerous. vs. How could a lovely little frog be dangerous?

## PRE-READING IDEAS

**WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionaries / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... of the words 'frog' and 'hospital'.

**TRUE FALSE:** Guess whether the following statements about the article are true or false:

- a. There are 2,000 different species of frog in Australia. T / F
- b. There are many frog hospitals in Australia. T / F
- c. It costs up to \$100 US to treat a sick or injured frog. T / F
- d. Australian people willingly give money to help sick frogs. T / F
- e. The frog hospital helps identify new diseases in the frog population.. T / F
- f. Frogs can help us understand skin cancer. T / F
- g. The frog hospital treats pet frogs and garden frogs free of charge. T / F
- h. Frog wheelchairs cost around \$10,000 US each. T / F

**SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article:

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| (a) species      | priceless    |
| (b) shortly      | importance   |
| (c) support      | types        |
| (d) vet          | aid          |
| (e) donate       | recondition  |
| (f) valuable     | yearly       |
| (g) rehabilitate | cares for    |
| (h) significance | soon         |
| (i) treats       | veterinarian |
| (j) annual       | contribute   |

**PHRASE MATCH:** Match the following phrases from the article:

- |                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| (a) species                  | its doors         |
| (b) due to                   | service           |
| (c) has to shut              | to charities      |
| (d) concern for frogs is not | of charge         |
| (e) donate money             | chain             |
| (f) provides a valuable      | times that amount |
| (g) food                     | costs             |
| (h) free                     | so forthcoming    |
| (i) annual                   | a lack of funds   |
| (j) she needs at least ten   | of frog           |

## GAP FILL

### Aussie frog hospital to close

**BNE:** Australia's more than 200 \_\_\_\_\_ of frog will soon have no place to go when they are sick. This is because the country's only frog hospital will close shortly, \_\_\_\_\_ to a lack of funds. The Cairns Frog Hospital has to shut its doors after six-and-a-half years of caring for diseased and \_\_\_\_\_ frogs. The owner and founder of the hospital, Deborah Pergolotti, is asking the government for financial support. It costs up to \$100 US per \_\_\_\_\_ for live insects, vet's bills, medicine, and medical supplies. However, she fears public money and concern for frogs is not so forthcoming. While the Australian public are prepared to donate money to charities for their more \_\_\_\_\_ kangaroos and koalas, frogs are further down the list of cuteness.

*patient      species      injured      lovable      due*

The hospital provides a \_\_\_\_\_ service for Australia's amphibian wildlife. Not only does it rehabilitate frogs, it also monitors and \_\_\_\_\_ new diseases in the frog population. This important information helps understand how a diseased frog might affect other species in the food chain, or the \_\_\_\_\_ of a frog developing a new kind of skin cancer. Ms. Pergolotti also treats pet frogs and garden frogs free of charge, up to 200 at a time. While she doesn't have to buy frog wheelchairs or ambulances, the \_\_\_\_\_ costs of running the hospital come to around \$10,000 US. Ms. Pergolotti says she needs at least ten times that amount to start up a \_\_\_\_\_ laboratory.

*annual      identifies      proper      significance      valuable*

## **DISCUSSION:**

- a. What was interesting in this article?
- b. Were you surprised by anything in this article?
- c. Do you like frogs?
- d. What do you know about frogs?
- e. Which adjective would you choose to describe frogs?
- f. Can you hold a frog in your hand?
- g. What kind of frogs do you have in your country?
- h. Would you like to eat frogs' legs?
- i. Would you like a frog for a pet?
- j. Should the Australian government give money to the Cairns Frog Hospital?
- k. Which are more important, frogs or koalas?
- l. Is the life of a frog a good one?
- m. What do frogs do every day?
- n. Did you have to dissect a frog at school?
- o. What do you think of Kermit the frog (from the Muppets), or Keroppi (from Japan)?
- p. Are there any famous frogs in your country's literature / children's books / TV?
- q. How important are frogs in nature?
- r. After you die, would you like to come back as a frog?
- s. Did you like this discussion?
- t. Teacher / Student additional questions.

## **HOMEWORK**

**VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find information on frogs. Share your findings with your class next lesson.

**SAVE OUR HOSPITAL:** Imagine you are the owner of the Cairns Frog Hospital. Write down ten reasons for getting financial support from the government and keeping the hospital open. Use these questions in a role play next class.

**FROG DIARY:** Imagine you are a frog. Write a journal / diary entry for one day in your life.

## TEXT

### Aussie frog hospital to close

**BNE:** Australia's more than 200 **species** of frog will soon have no place to go when they are sick. This is because the country's only frog hospital will close shortly, **due** to a lack of funds. The Cairns Frog Hospital has to shut its doors after six-and-a-half years of caring for diseased and **injured** frogs. The owner and founder of the hospital, Deborah Pergolotti, is asking the government for financial support. It costs up to \$100 US per **patient** for live insects, vet's bills, medicine, and medical supplies. However, she fears public money and concern for frogs is not so forthcoming. While the Australian public are prepared to donate money to charities for their more **lovable** kangaroos and koalas, frogs are further down the list of cuteness.

The hospital provides a **valuable** service for Australia's amphibian wildlife. Not only does it rehabilitate frogs, it also monitors and **identifies** new diseases in the frog population. This important information helps understand how a diseased frog might affect other species in the food chain, or the **significance** of a frog developing a new kind of skin cancer. Ms. Pergolotti also treats pet frogs and garden frogs free of charge, up to 200 at a time. While she doesn't have to buy frog wheelchairs or ambulances, the **annual** costs of running the hospital come to around \$10,000 US. Ms. Pergolotti says she needs at least ten times that amount to start up a **proper** laboratory.