DESIGN AND MAKE YOUR OWN FROG POND!

Helpful Hints: Use the design process. Use the *FrogID* app to find out about the frogs in your area. Investigate your school grounds thoroughly to find the perfect location.

Outcomes: ST2-2DP-T ST2-4LW-S

MATERIALS

In order to build your frog pond, you will need:

- Plastic pond liner
- Gravel or washed sand
- Native plants and reeds
- Rocks, logs, leaf litter and bark
- Optional: Solar powered light (attracts insects for food!)
- Optional: Native fish (controls the mosquito population)

BUILDING INSTRUCTIONS

Follow these simple steps to build your very own frog pond:

1. Find the right location in your backyard and dig a hole (depth approximately 30 cm).
2. Add a thin layer of sand.
3. Line with thick plastic pond liner.
4. Turn the edges up and line with rocks.
5. Put rocks inside the pond to provide shelter for the tadpoles.
6. Put native swamp plants in shallow end and lilies, etc. in the deep end (cover the soil in the pots with sand).
7. Fill with tap water but let it stand for 1 week before any animals go in. This is to remove chlorine.
8. Plant native shrubs/reeds around the pond to attract insects and provide shelter for the frogs.
9. Place a solar light beside the pond to attract insects for the frogs.

CURRENT THREATS TO FROGS

There are a number of threats that contribute to the continued decline of our frogs including:

- Disease
- Habitat degradation
- Stream drying/ wetland drainage
- Predation by introduced exotic predatory fish
- Use of herbicide and insecticides

HABITATS

Over time, frogs have adapted the ability to survive in many different environments including rainforests, mountains and even deserts! Research the frog species that are found in your local area so you know the best type of habitat to create.

Pick a good location that is not too close to your house with access to some shade. They should also have access to other native plants and shrubs that they can use for shelter and to find their food in!




OR BE A CARETAKER FOR AN EXISTING HABITAT...

You could try to find the habitat of an animal in or around your garden. Think of three ways that you might be able to support it. For example, plantint native plants and trees gives wildlife plenty of cover and things to eat.

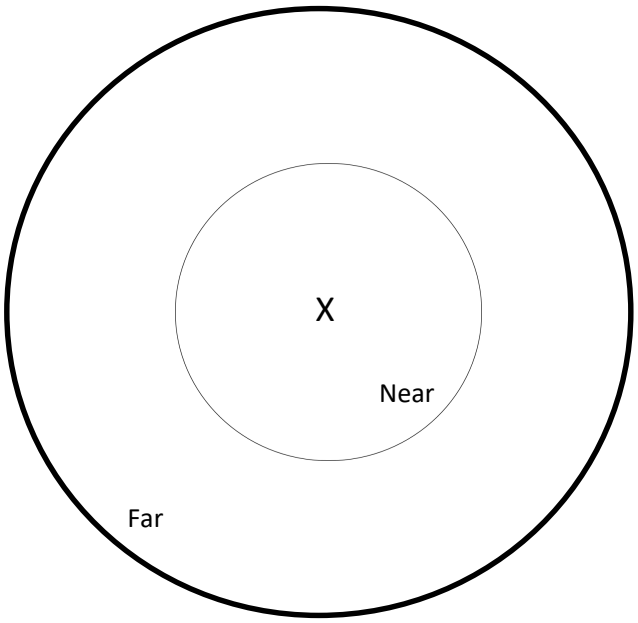
TARONGA ZOO SYDNEY
TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOO DUBBO
For the Wild

SOUND MAP ACTIVITY

A sound map is a perfect way to explore and connect with the outdoors and all the wonderful things that surround you. For this activity you will need a pencil and a nice spot by yourself outside in your garden, on your balcony or in your school playground.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1) Make sure you are in a nice spot with no one near to distract you.
2) The X in the middle of the circle represents you. The space above the X represents what is in front of you, the space below represents what is behind you, the space to the left is what is on your left side and same with the right side.
3) The small circle represents sounds that are close to you and the larger circle represents those that might be far away.
4) You can use symbols, pictures, words or letters to represent the sounds you hear (e.g. ~~ might represent water or you might just put the letter W)
5) Every time you hear a repeat of the same sound then you record it again using the same symbol.
6) Set a timer for 15 minutes. You could make this time shorter if you want to. Once you hit start then begin recording everything that you hear around you. You may want to close your eyes while you are listening and see if that helps you to focus more on the sounds around you.
7) When the time is up, create a legend/key to accompany your sound map.



SOUND MAP ACTIVITIES:

1) Create an engaging and descriptive story to accompany your sound map.

2) Create a graph from your sound map to determine how often certain sounds were heard and compare your graph with other students in your class. Think about:
    a) Did you have the same sounds?
    b) Why might they have been the same or different?
    c) What sounds were the most reoccurring for you both?

3) What wildlife is the most abundant in your area based on of your sound map data? Can you think of a way to continue to preserve their habitat?

4) Complete this activity again, but at a different time of day. Compare the two sound maps and write down all the differences and similarities. Make predictions about the trends in the data.

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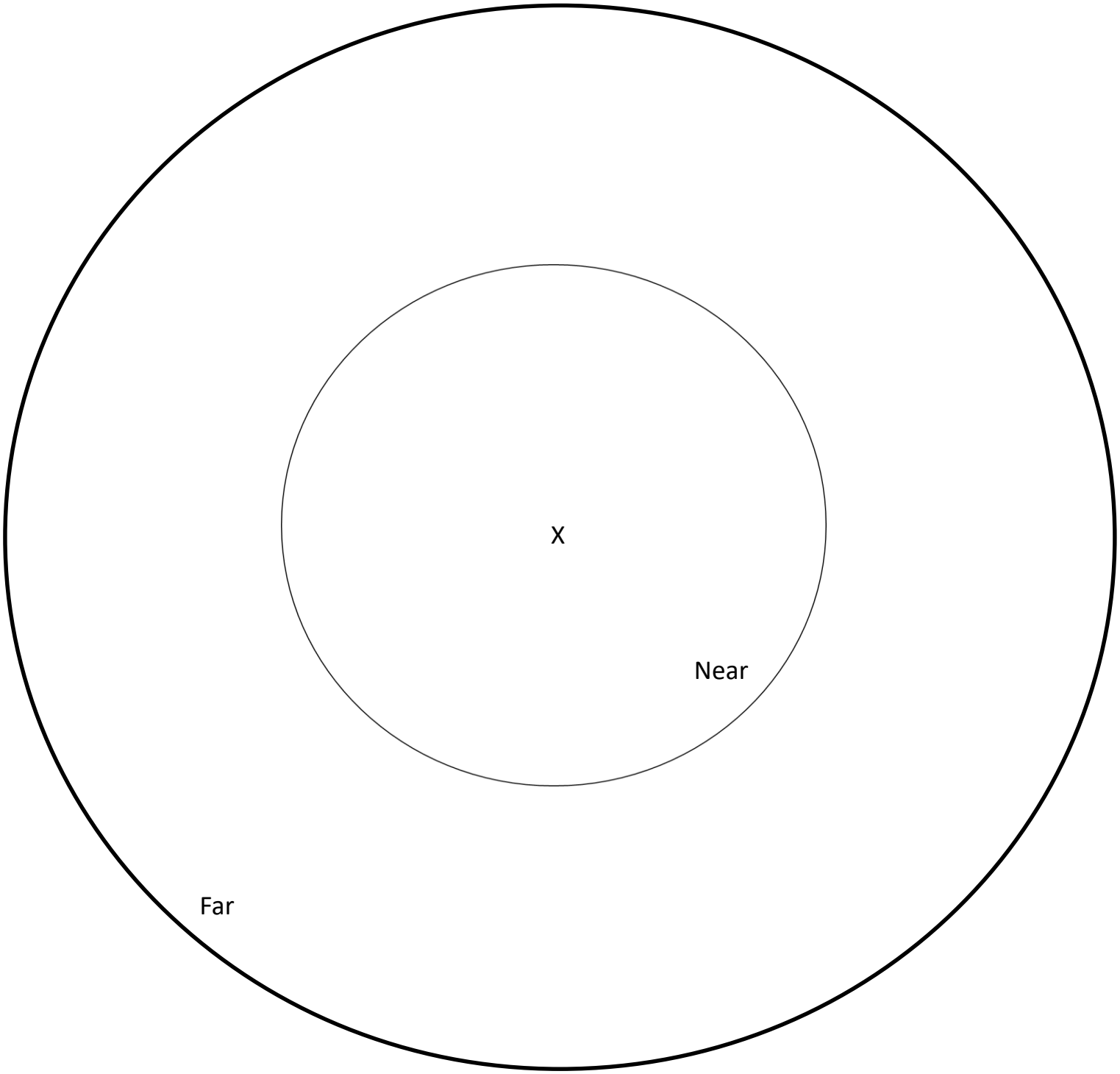
SOUND MAP

Record the sounds you hear on the sound map below. Think about if it was it close or far and where you might record it on the map.



What were your favourite sounds?
How did they make you feel?
Did they remind you of anything?
What could you put on the map to describe if a sound was soft or quiet?

Legend/Key
For example:
~~ = Water

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