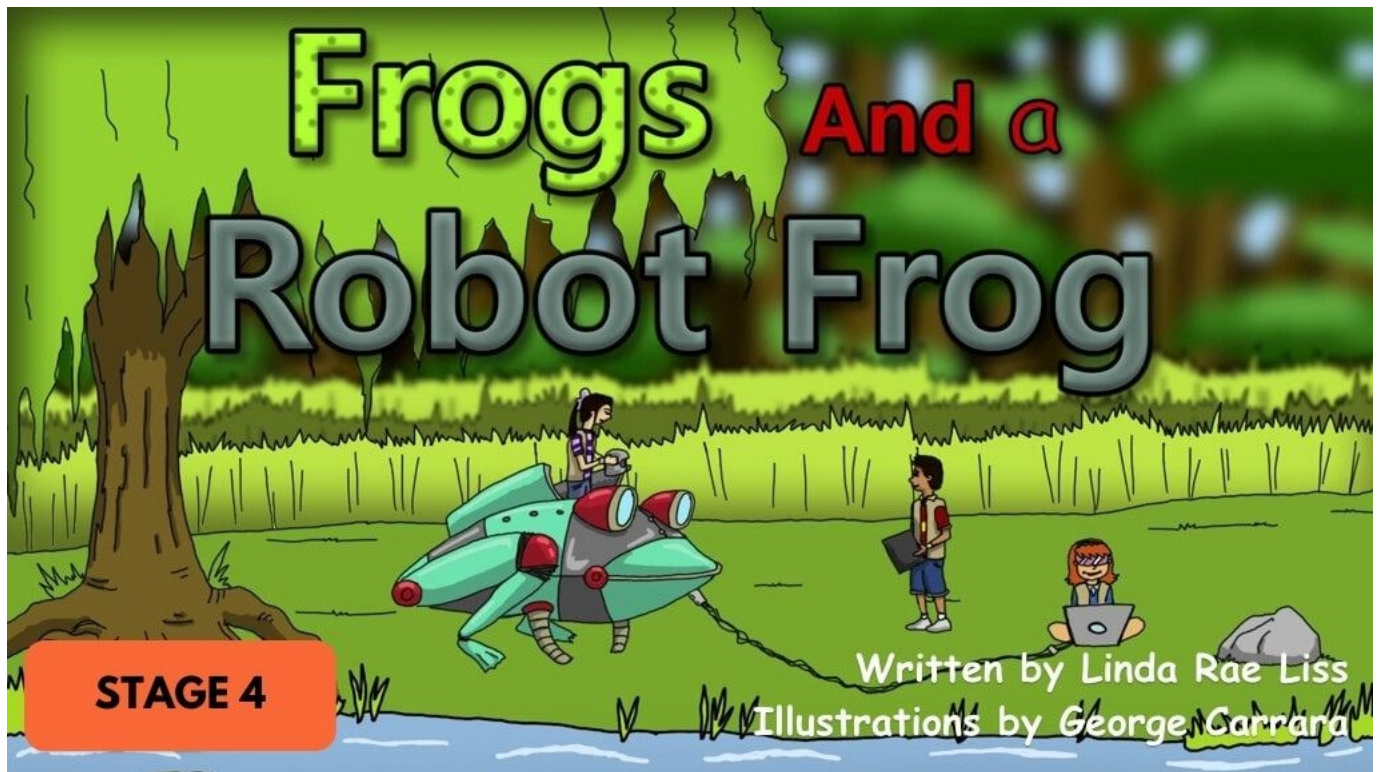




Frogs And a Robot Frog

STAGE 4

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Illustrations by George Carrara

Kim, Ram, and Peg made a frog robot. It will help them study frogs in the pond.



Peg, Ram, and Kim tell the kids in their class about the life cycle of a frog. They want to see frogs in their wetland habitat. They have a plan.



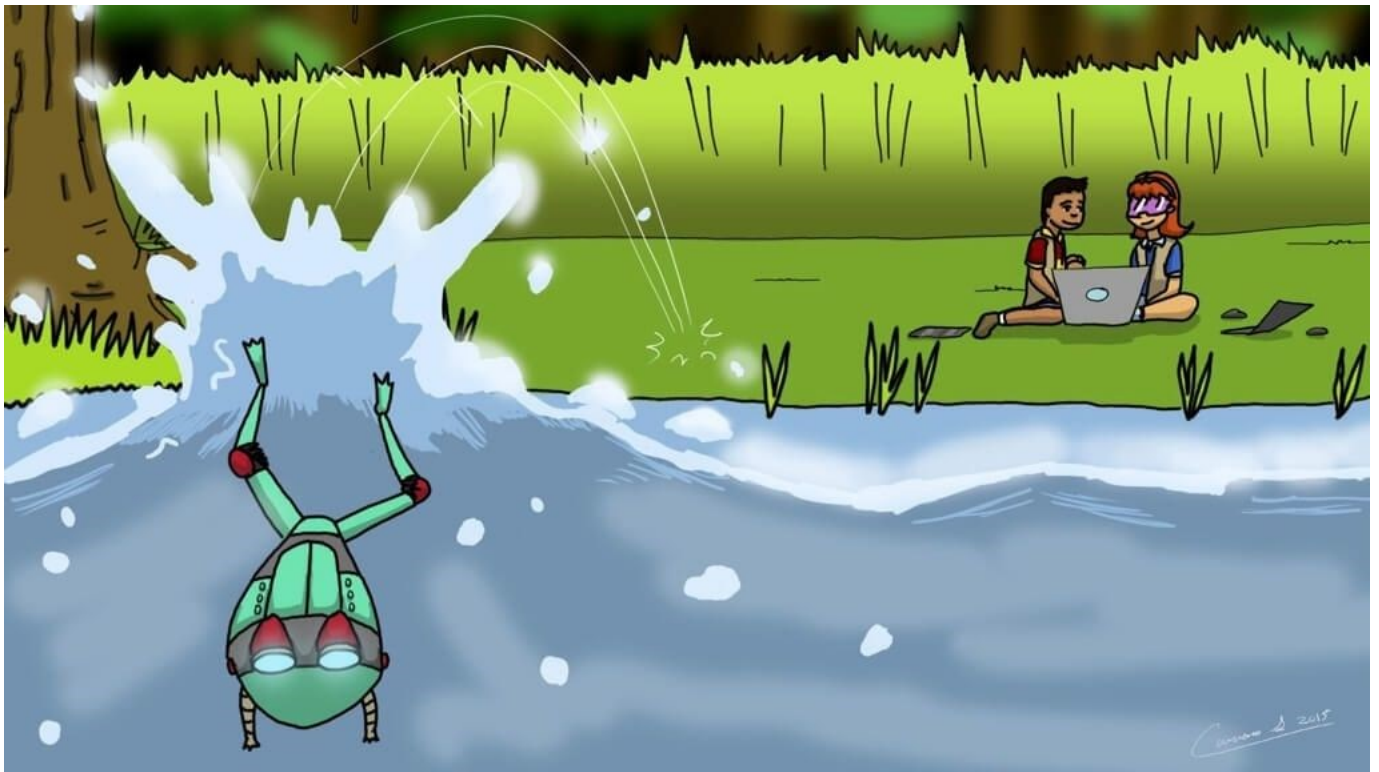
Kim gets into the frog robot. She is very brave.



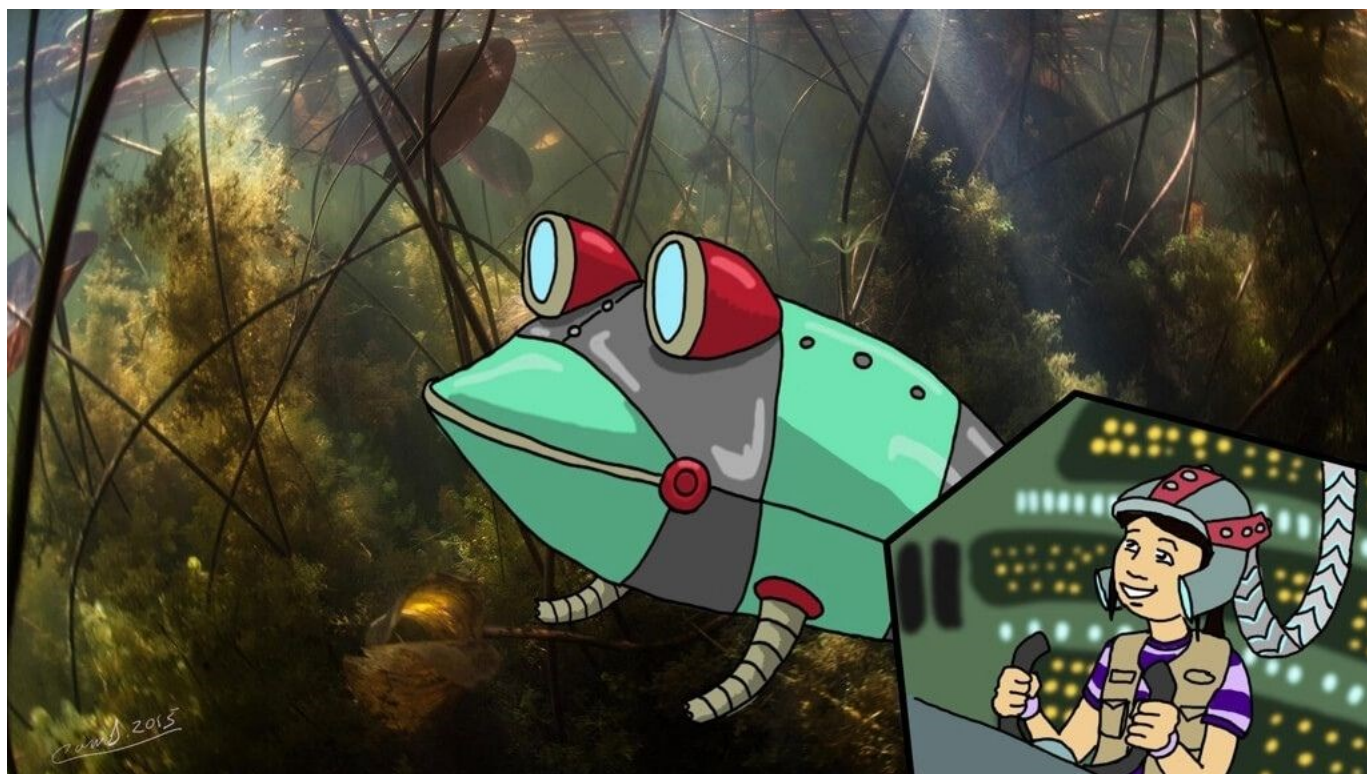
Ram pushes the button on the Zapper. The shrinking rays hit the robot frog.



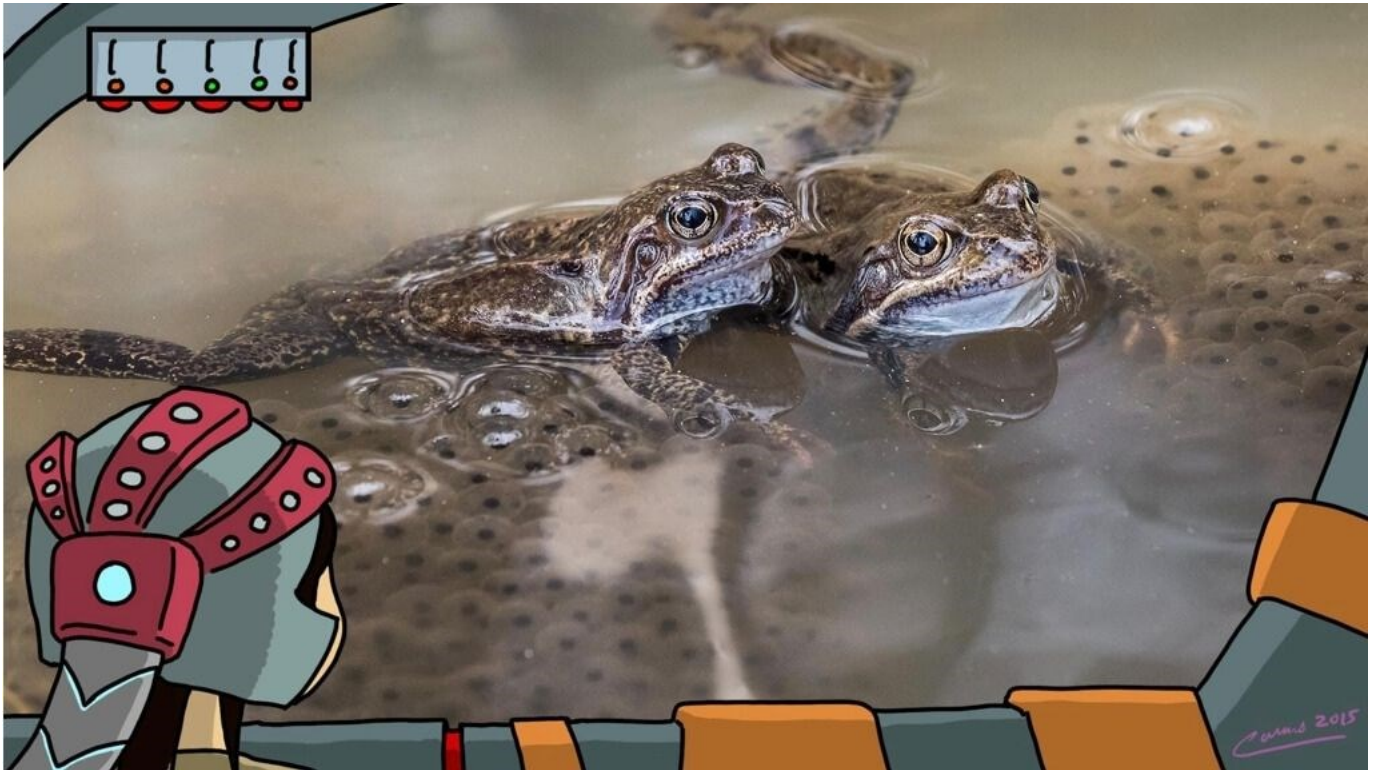
The robot frog shrinks. It gets smaller and smaller until it is the size of a real frog. Kim is inside the frog. She is tiny, too.



Kim is in the control center of the frog. She makes the robot frog dive into the pond. Ram and Peg can observe on their laptop. They will take notes and photos.



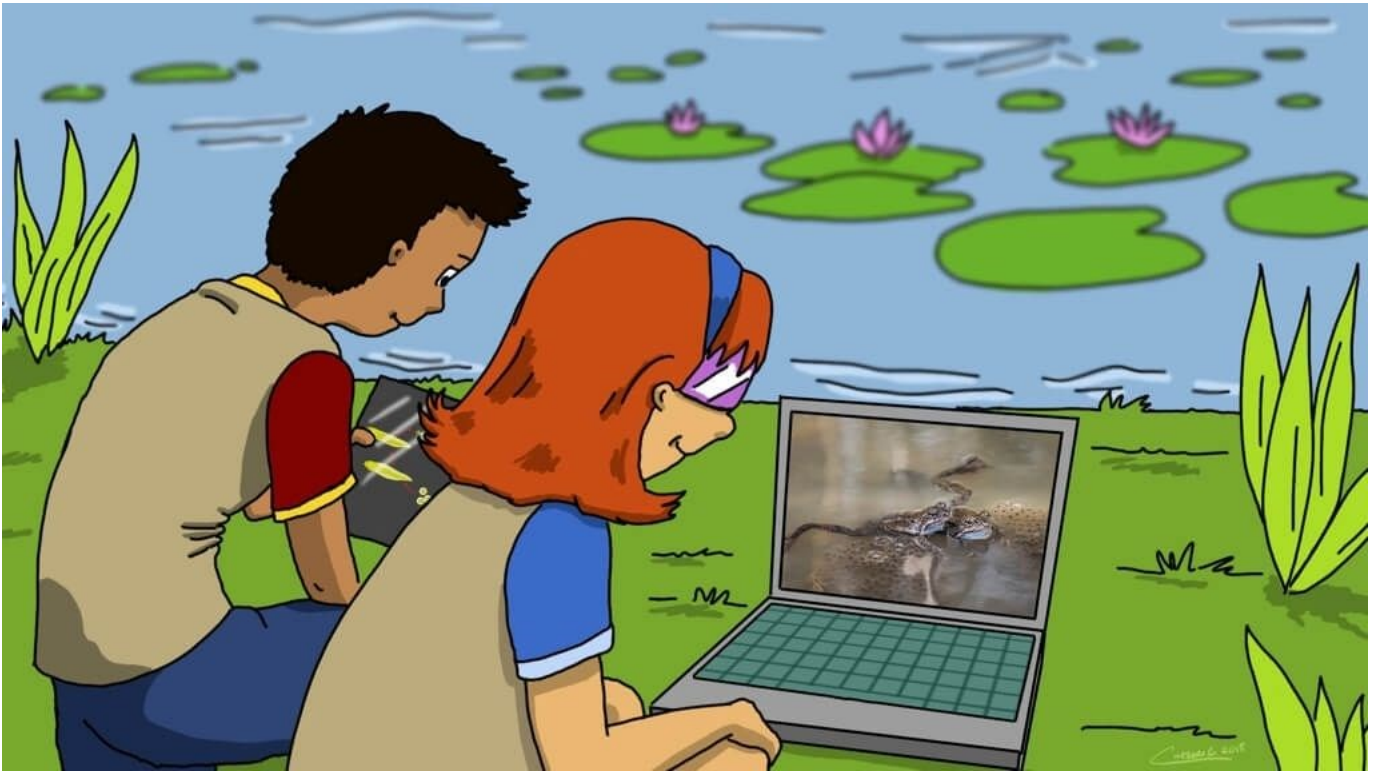
Kim can see under the water. She drives the frog robot. At first, she does not see any frogs. But wait ...



Kim sees frogs and their eggs at the surface. A frog lays many tiny eggs in the water. The eggs stick to each other in a glob of jelly. The jellylike stuff protects the eggs.



Kim has a close-up of the eggs. The glob of jelly protects the baby tadpoles inside the jelly sacs. Kim says, "The black dots in the sac are the tadpoles."



Peg and Ram think about the frog life cycle chart. They see the frog and the eggs too. Peg says, "A tadpole will hatch from each egg."



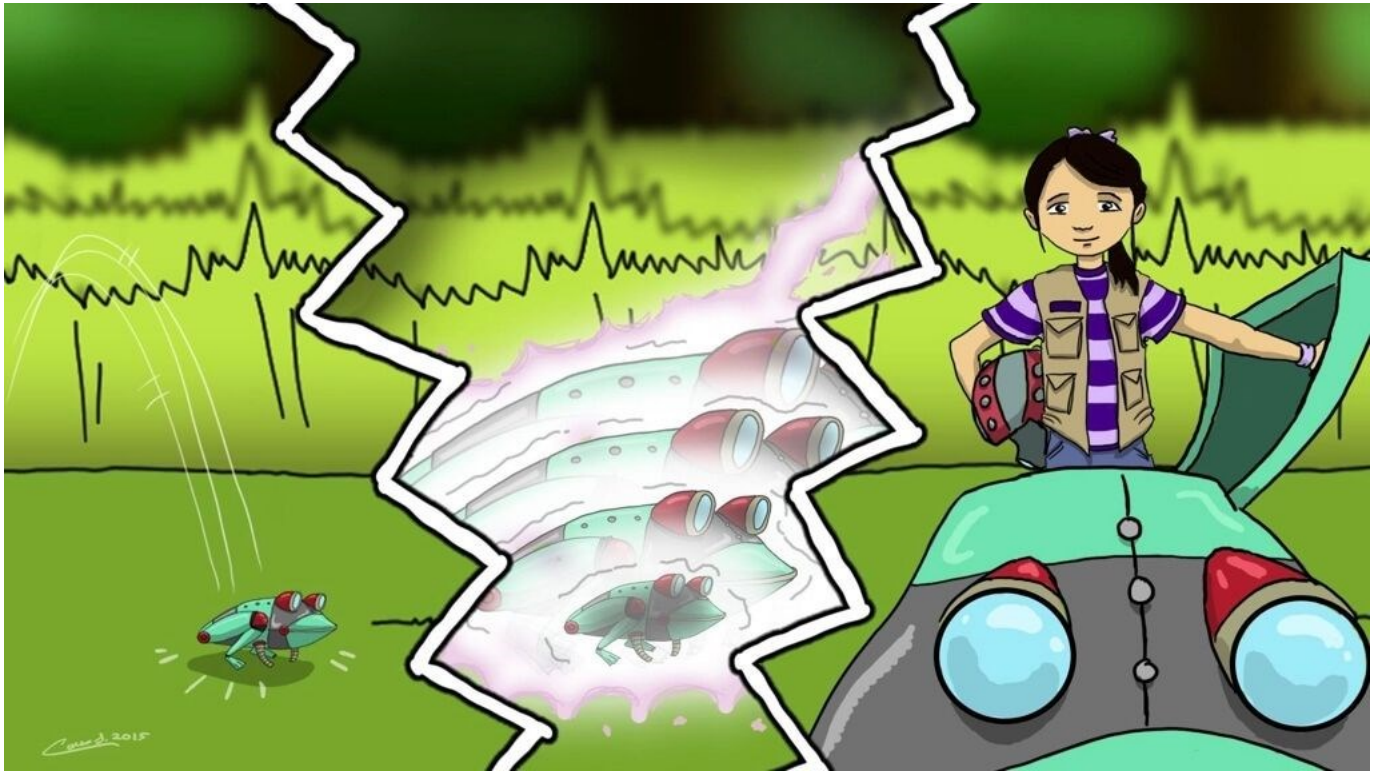
Next, Kim sees a tadpole. It looks like a fish. It has a fin and a long tail to swim. It has gills to breathe under water. Kim says, "It looks more like a fish than a frog!"



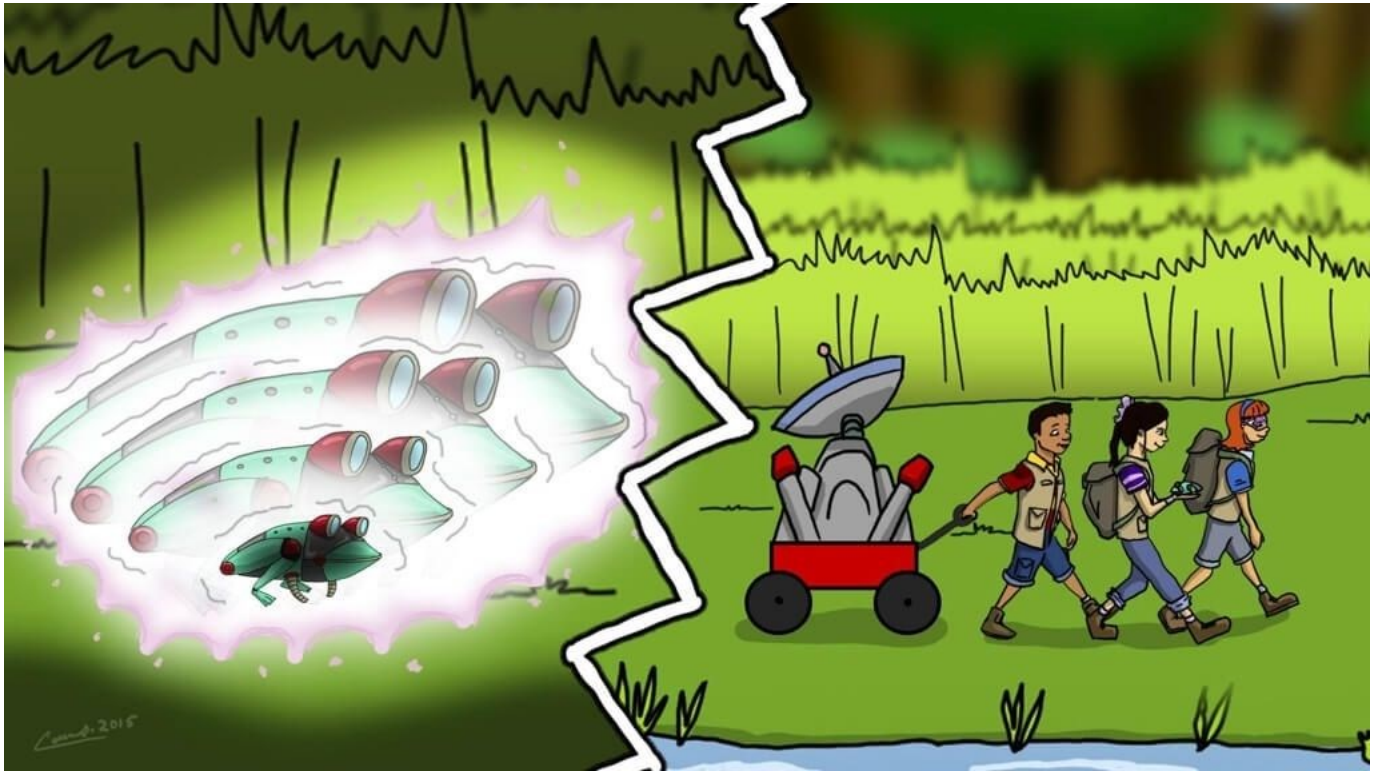
Peg and Ram see two frogs and many eggs, but only one tadpole. They tell Kim it is time to come out of the pond.



Kim does not want to leave. She just saw something else. It looks like a frog with a tail. She tells Ram to take a photo. Kim says, "I think it is a tadpole that has back legs."



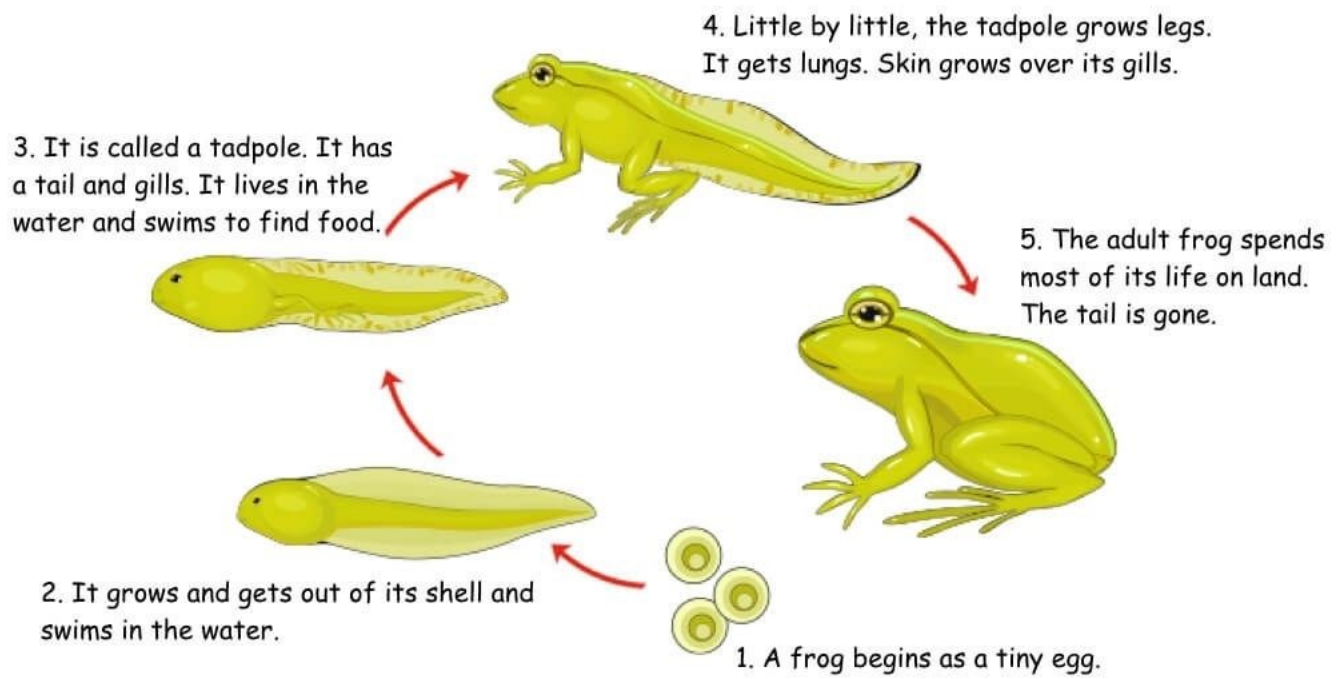
After that, the robot frog gets out of the pond. Ram rushes back to the Zapper! The robot frog gets bigger and bigger. Finally, the door opens and Kim steps out.



Ram shrinks the robot frog so it will fit into the wagon. The team pulls the wagon and starts for home.



They mark on a map where the robot frog swam in the pond. They will have a lot to tell the kids in their class.



Facts About Frogs

Frogs live where it is wet. Frogs eat bugs. They catch bugs with their tongue. They lay their eggs where it is wet. Frogs grow and change. As a tadpole they have gills to breath under water, but as an adult they have lungs to breath the air. As a tadpole they have a tail to swim, but as an adult they have legs to jump. There are less and less frogs because of toxins in the water.





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