



## FROG FABLES AND TURTLE TALES

This one and a half hour program is delivered on site at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary.

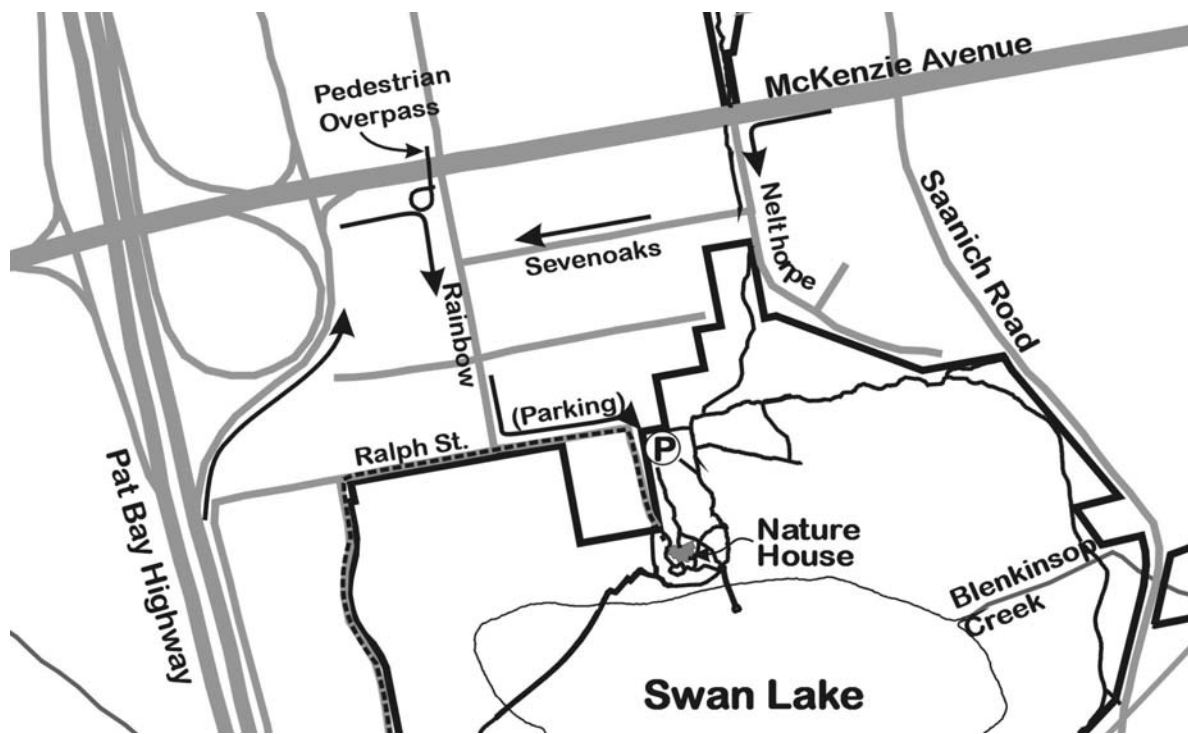
### BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:

1. Provide each student with easily read **name tags** for both indoors and outdoors.
2. Please encourage appropriate **clothing** for the weather. Remember that part of the program is outdoors.
3. Divide your class into **two groups** before you arrive. It is very helpful if you have another adult to go along with one group, so that they can manage any problems that may arise such as taking a student to the washroom.

### The program consists of the following activities:

<b>Inside</b>	Exploring Amphibians	(30 minutes)
<b>Outside</b>	Exploring Habitats & Games	(30 minutes)
<b>Inside</b>	Exploring Reptiles	(30 minutes)

### WE'LL MEET YOU IN FRONT OF THE NATURE HOUSE.



## Our Goals:

- understand what makes reptiles & amphibians different from other animals
- discover what kind of reptiles & amphibians live on Vancouver Island
- compare our senses with some live reptiles & amphibians
- discover some of the adaptation of reptiles & amphibians

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Introduction:** Herpetology is the branch of zoology that studies reptiles and amphibians. The herp part of herpetology comes from the Greek word herpeton which means “crawling thing”. Four major groups – lizards, worm-lizards, and snakes; turtles; crocodilians; and the tuatara – make up the reptiles. Amphibians are represented by three groups; frogs; salamanders; and the obscure, worm-like creatures know as caecilians.

## Location #1: Classroom

- 1. What is an Amphibian?** Using pictures, we will figure out what an amphibian is and how it is different from a reptile
- 2. True or False game** We will test out our knowledge of some truths and myths about amphibians
- 3. Call of the wild** Frog songs  
Frogs can make all kinds of sounds including clicks, whistles, grunts and trills. Calls may be territorial, mating, release or distress. We will listen to a variety of frog calls, try to imitate and do a frog call chorus.
- 4. Visit with the live animals** For each animal, we will briefly compare our senses to that of each animal. Also we will figure out where around Swan Lake we would find these animals and to which group they belong.
  - Newts
  - Toad

## Location #2: Outside

### 1. Exploring reptile & amphibian habitat

Lots of reptiles live in or around Swan Lake. We will explore the different habitats to find out what makes this a good home for them and try mimicking movement of different kinds of reptiles (slither like a snake, walk with legs way out to side like lizard, pretend swimming like a turtle). Using props we will demonstrate some of the difference between amphibians and reptile.

- **Scales vs. Slime**
- **Eggs**

### 2. Camouflage games

Many reptiles rely on camouflage to remain hidden from their prey or from predators. To

illustrate this concept, the kids will try to find the hidden snakes in the plant garden. Some are brightly coloured and easy to find, where as some are camouflage colours (brown, black, green) and much harder to find. The crux of camouflage is the ability to stand perfectly still. We will play a game to re-enforce this concept.

### 3. Turtle Tag

### 4. If time allows Snake shed simulation

## Location #3: Nature House

### 1. Visiting with some reptiles

For each animal, we will briefly compare our senses to that of each animal. We will also figure out where around Swan Lake we would find these animals and which to which they belong.

- Western Painted Turtle
- Northwestern Garter Snakes

### Payment

In invoice will accompany the confirmation letter you received. **Payment** is due at the time of the program, and cheques should be made out to **Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary** and given to the programmer. **VISA or MC** can be phoned in.

**Receipts** will be sent by e-mail or fax upon request.

### Change of Dates and/or Times:

If you wish to change the date or time of your program please contact us at **250.479.0211** or at [programs@swanlake.bc.ca](mailto:programs@swanlake.bc.ca). We will do our best to accommodate your request, depending on available times and dates.

If you have any questions or comments about your program please don't hesitate to contact us; we always welcome your feedback.

**We greatly appreciate students' feedback.** If you send us artwork or writing describing their experience at Swan Lake we will display as many as we can around the Nature House.

