



Article Guide: Evolutionary biologist works to save Congo's reptiles and amphibians

<http://scienceovereverything.com/2018/06/12/congo-reptiles-and-amphibians/>

Part 1

Directions:

- Read the entire article once through
 - Box vocabulary words or words that you have not seen before
 - Underline in the text where the focus questions are addressed
- Answer each focus question

Focus questions

1. Why has rainforest of Central Africa been so understudied? What kinds of challenges do scientists like Dr. Greenbaum face?

2. What can DNA sequencing tell us about the species of frogs that live in the rainforests in Congo?

3. What sort of threats do the reptiles and amphibians of Congo face? Why are they threatened from extinction?

Part 2

Directions:

- Read each understanding question
 - Think about what you would need to know to answer that question
- Read the article a second time.
 - Answer each understanding question

Understanding questions

1. Around 25 million years ago, Earth's climate began to cool, causing the forests of Central Africa to become fragmented. How would this accelerate the speciation of the reptiles and amphibians in the area?

2. Explain why understanding the different species of frogs, snakes, lizards and other reptiles and amphibians living in Congo so important to conservation efforts. Why is it important to protect these animals, both from a human and an ecological perspective?

Part 3

Directions:

- Read the article a final time
 - Discuss with a partner how you would address the extension questions.
 - Write a response to the extension questions
3. From the transatlantic slave trade to colonial rule to multinational corporations extracting minerals to use in their own products, Congo's resources have been exploited by other countries. Due to its history, the country has not been able to develop a strong economy on their own and have had several civil wars as different groups struggled for power. The weak government and extreme poverty has forced people to make money in ways that is hurts the environment; deforestation for farming and grazing and strip mining. What are some solutions that could be implemented by the international community to help protect the rainforest of Congo? How could you support the need for economic growth to lift people out of poverty while at the same time save what remains of the ecosystem?
