



Exercise: 1

Instructions: You are a biology teacher in McCammon*, Idaho. You have decided to take your students on a field trip to the Mink Creek area to look for amphibians and lizards. First, compile a list of the species that are known to occur within Caribou National Forest. Although this list will provide you with a good guess as to what species you might find, figure that some species may not occur because their habitat is not in the Mink Creek area. You were able to obtain the following list of habitat available in the Mink Creek area. Create a table with the species from your list down the left hand side of the table and the habitat across the top of the table. Using the Digital Atlas of Idaho's Wildlife, put check marks on the type of habitat that each species may be found in.

1. What are the characteristics that distinguish amphibians from other animals?
2. What species are included in each of the two orders of amphibians found in Idaho?
3. What are the major differences between these two orders?
4. Using the family tree page, indicate which family of salamander is the least related to the other families of salamanders. Which family of the order Anura is the least related to the others?
5. Of the two families Ranidae and Pelobatidae, which one is more closely related to Bufonidae?
6. What do most amphibians eat?
7. Describe the basic life cycle of a frog. Trace the path of a frog from an egg to an adult.

Conservation: Visit the web site of the North American Reporting Center for Amphibian Malformations at: <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/narcam/>

1. What types of malformations did you observe?
2. What are the possible causes of these malformations?
3. Why do you think toxic chemicals influence frogs so easily?
4. What might happen to the genetic diversity of amphibians if they continue to decline?