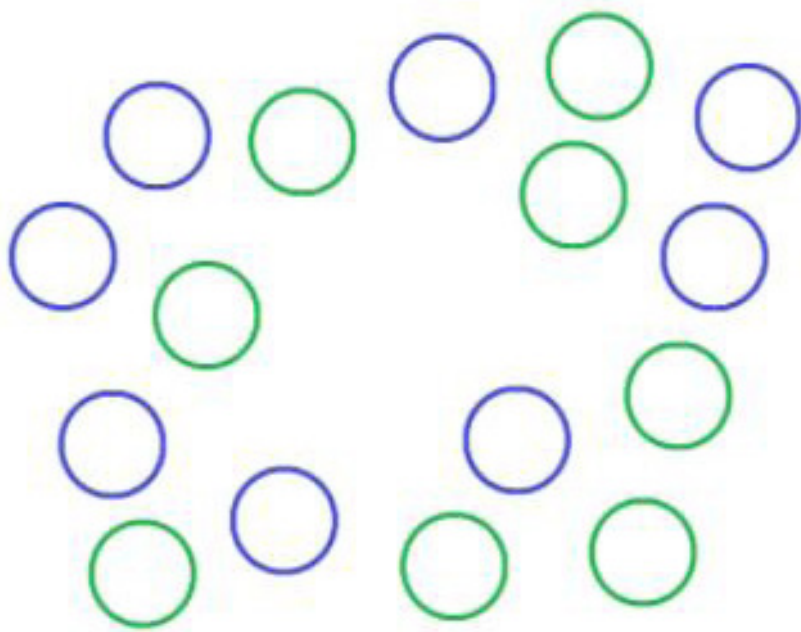




Fragmentation Frenzy

How to:



1. Set up a “habitat” of hula hoops, floor spots, or construction paper, similar to the layout on the left. You can get creative with your habitat layout, depending on the playing area. The habitat should look connected. For example, a “corridor” of green hoops connects a “patch” of forest, which connects to a “wetland.”

2. Before beginning, review the term “fragmentation.” Explain to students that the green represents forested habitat, and the blue hula hoops are wetlands. Explain to students that they are frogs and salamanders, and have to find their way through the habitat. Encourage younger students to hop, crawl, and imitate frog calls as they play.

3. Explain to students that when the leader calls out “Freeze,” they have to find a “safe” habitat patch (blue or green spaces), and freeze there. The amphibians caught outside of the safe habitat are out of the game.

4. As each round progresses, replace some blue or green hoops with orange and red. Explain to students that these are houses, roads, stores, or other human structures that have replaced the habitat. The amphibians can pass through these human habitats, but cannot stay there when the leader says to freeze. These are not ideal habitat patches for our amphibians; they do not have all of the things that these animals need to survive. If they are caught in the red or orange, they are out of the game.

5. At the end of the game (when one amphibian wins), ask students to explain what happened throughout the game. What was it like to be an amphibian in a fragmented environment?

