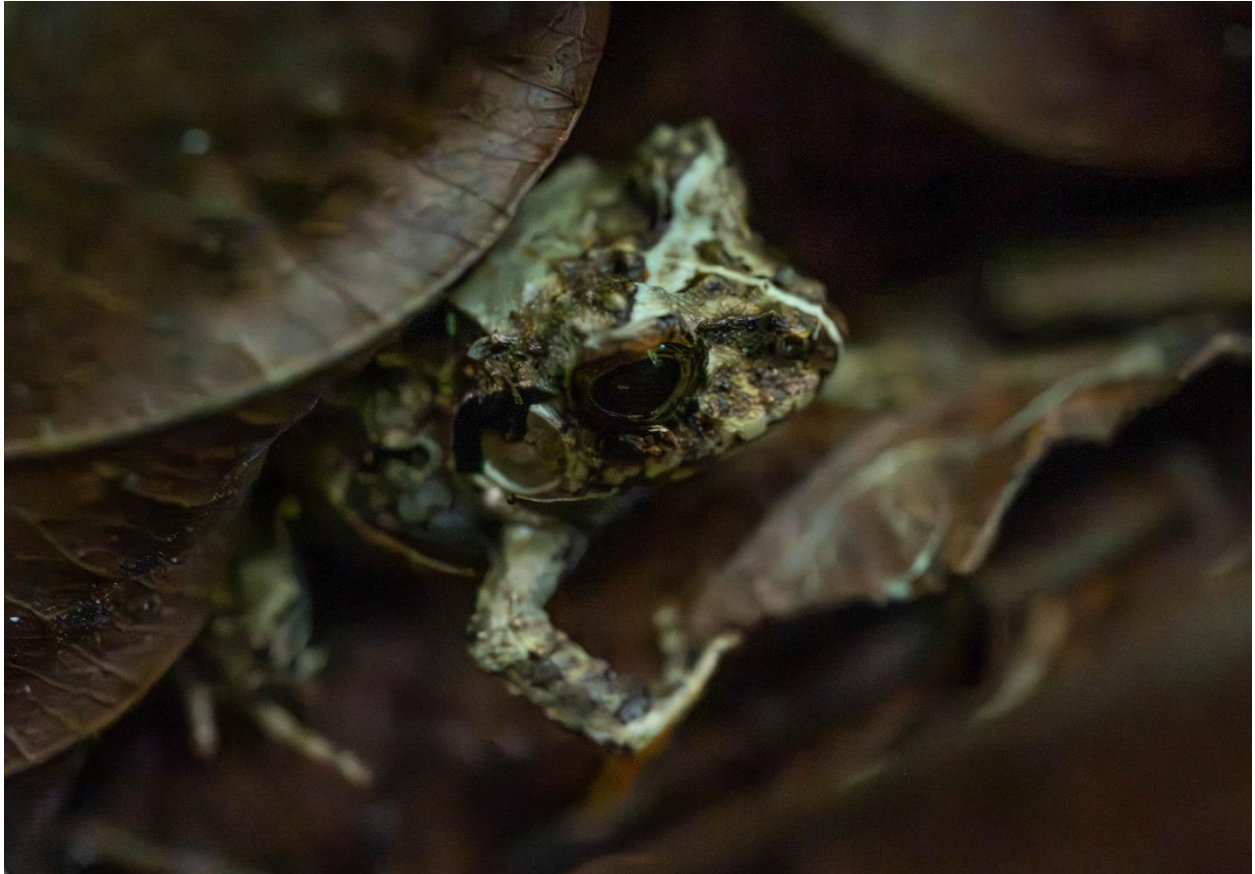


BioQuest!



A frog PEAKS out from under a leaf. Like many species, this one in Costa Rica uses cryptic coloration for protective camouflage. At any moment, those who walk in the forest are probably surrounded by creatures who remain nearly invisible.

April 19, 2024

Dear PEAK Students, Parents, and Teachers,

This week students continued with their independent study of selected species. In addition, those who traveled to Costa Rica shared highlights with their colleagues, parents, grandparents, and friends. The trip was exciting, and students enjoyed sharing a few of the ways they were impacted along with photos of our activities.

Next week students will have time during our meetings to continue their research and create PowerPoints. PowerPoints are due on April 30. At that time, we will finalize the plan for our public presentations at Montana Wild.

Here are the Independent Study topics we are working on:

Group presentation of Leatherback Sea Turtles

Raine: Black Swifts

Tristan and Reese: Costa Rican monkeys

Willow (and possibly Dawson): Poison Dart Frog
 Jacob: Eyelash Viper
 Oliver and Joshua: Jesus Christ Lizard (find out how it got the name)
 Melissa: Chrysaora Fuscescens Jellyfish (Pacific Sea Nettle)
 Keely: Luna Moth
 Sophia: Puffins
 Weston: Canis Lupis
 Beth: Cougars
 Railey and Grey: Homo Sapiens
 Cate and Raine: How can visual art inspire people to care more about endangered species?

We anticipate learning so much more about diverse creatures as well as the human dimensions: the researchers who study them, and the ecologists who protect them. Students will also design their own hypothetical experimental research project to answer an interesting question about the species. See the attached outline for what to include on the PowerPoint about your independent study project.

PEAK GT 8-12 Schedule:

6-8 PM, April 23 at Helena College, Room 120: Bring laptops for Independent Study work. Create your PowerPoint.

April 24: CR Anderson 8th grade advisor and lunch meeting. Bring laptops to finalize PowerPoints presentations.

6-8 PM, April 30 at Helena College Room 120: Send you PowerPoint link to Ms. Knight before we meet. Rehearse presentations for Montana Wild. Record narration soundtrack.

May 1: CR Anderson 8th grade advisor and lunch meeting. Bring laptops.

6-8 PM, May 7 at Helena College Room 120: *Return of the Grizzly*, a new film presented by creator Nick Gevock. Also, present your independent study project to Mr. Slead.

May 8: No meeting at CR Anderson. SBAC testing week at CR Anderson.

6:30-8:30 PM, May 14: Montana Wild Presentations. NOTE SLIGHTLY LATER THAN USUAL TIME!

May 21: Last PEAK 8-12 Meeting for the school year! Details TBA.

May 28, All Day: PEAK Leadership Conference

BioQuest UNIT ACTIVITIES	RESEARCH— I CAN STATEMENTS
Meet with biology researchers and wildlife managers.	I can listen actively, take effective notes, ask deep questions, and utilize expert information at a professional level in my own work.

Study selected fauna in Montana, Costa Rica, and elsewhere.	I can recognize, understand, and use the 5 Areas system autonomously.
Conduct research or learn about specific studies based on the scientific method. Independent study of specific species or ecosystems.	I can recognize, understand, and use the scientific method autonomously.
Conduct research into the human dimensions of the species chosen for research. Investigate the species role in a larger ecosystem.	I can investigate and describe the ecological significance of a species, as well as the human dimensions that influence it.
Interview research scientists.	I can autonomously generate professional-level interview questions tailored specifically to the interviewee.