



Bromeliad Blanket Fort

Bromeliads are a group of plants whose leaves often grow in a spiral, collecting water at the center. Inside these pools live an abundance of animals—from spiders to salamanders, many species depend on bromeliads for food, water, and shelter. Some tree frogs, like the strawberry poison-dart frog, lay eggs on bromeliad leaves. Once the eggs hatch the frog parents rear their tadpoles in the bromeliad pool. Build your own bromeliad using blankets, pillows, and furniture, and don a frog hat while you relax in the “pool”!

Materials

Pillows and blankets
Chairs and other small items of furniture
Frog hat template (pages 3-4)
Tape
Crayons, markers, or colored pencils

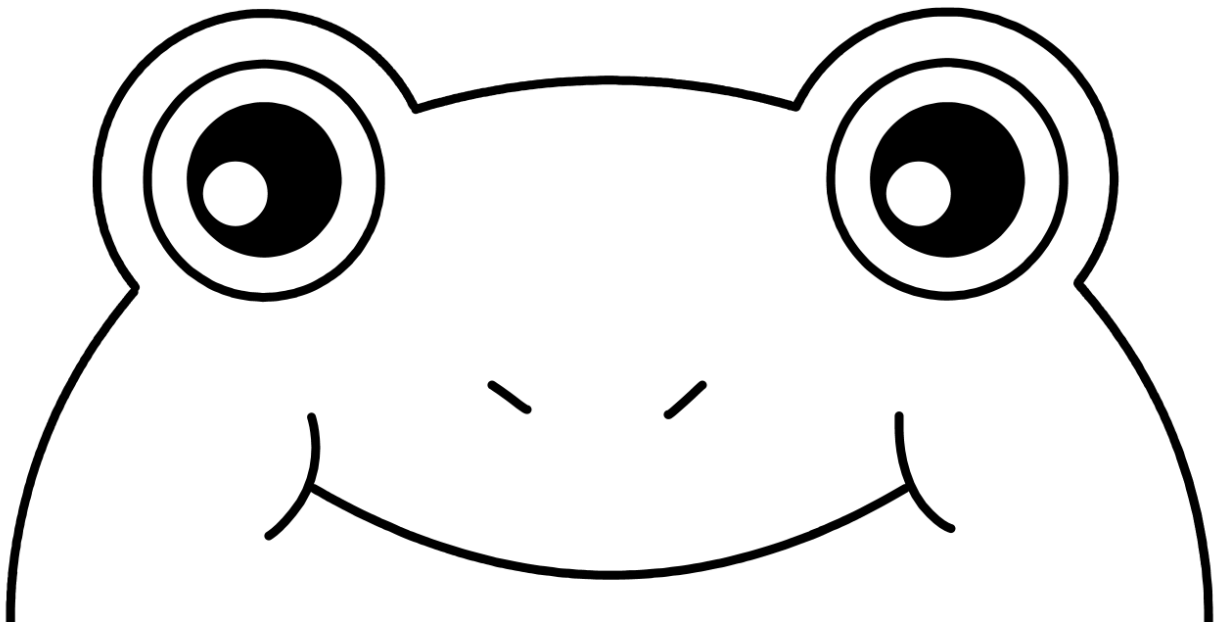
Directions

1. **Print** and **cut out** the frog hat template pieces on pages 3 and 4.
2. **Color** the frog hat template pieces. Will you be a red strawberry poison-dart frog, a yellow bromeliad frog, or a light green glass frog?
3. **Fold** the front frog legs like an accordion.
4. **Tape** the frog headpiece and front legs to one of the wide bands. **Tape** the back legs to the other band, then **tape** the two bands together to form the hat.



5. **Gather** blankets, pillows, and other soft fabric items. Many bromeliads are green or red: What colors will your bromeliad have?
6. **Make** a circle out of chairs and other small pieces of furniture with the help of an adult. **Drape** the blankets and fabric over the furniture. Make it cozy!
7. *Optional:* **Drape** a blanket across the top of your bromeliad to act as the rainforest canopy.
8. **Relax** inside your bromeliad pool!







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