# 3rd Grade ICT Sample #1

## Scenario

You are an environmental scientist helping the Pond Conservation Club learn how to keep their pond healthy all year. Read a detailed article about pond life, then watch a short video about frogs' survival strategies. Show what you know by answering questions and writing your opinion.

**Source 1: Text – "Life in Our Pond"**

Life in Our Pond

The pond behind Maple Elementary is full of life and activity. In early spring, tiny green algae bloom on the water's surface, turning the pond a soft shade of green. These algae make food from sunlight and give off oxygen—just like plants do on land. By late spring, snail shells peek above the water as the snails crawl along, eating fallen leaves and turning them into rich soil. Tadpoles hatch soon after; their round bodies and long tails let them swim quickly to find algae to eat.

As summer warms the water, insect larvae wriggle under lily pads and frogs begin to call at dusk. Each creature has a job: snails break down dead plants, tadpoles keep algae from covering the pond, and adult frogs eat mosquitoes so people can play outside without itchy bites. Fish swim below, eating both plants and insects, which helps keep the pond balanced. By fall, leaves drift down from nearby trees, and snails and bacteria work together to turn them into nutrients that feed next year's algae. Even in winter, when ice forms on top, tiny microorganisms carry on, keeping the cycle alive.

Every part of the pond depends on every other part—change one thing, and the whole pond can be affected. When trash or chemicals get into the water, it can kill helpful algae or harm snails, and the effects ripple through every living thing in the pond.

Source 2: Multimodal – Video Clip

**Watch: "Four Secret Frog Facts" (SciShow Kids, 2 min 15 sec)**

How to Access: Click the link. Pay attention to how frogs' colors, sounds, and behaviors help them survive.

**Part A: Interpreting Texts**

1. Which sentence from "Life in Our Pond" explains why algae are important?
   A. "By late spring, snail shells peek above the water as the snails crawl along …"
   B. "These algae make food from sunlight and give off oxygen—just like plants do on land."
   C. "As summer warms the water, insect larvae wriggle under lily pads …"
   D. "Even in winter, when ice forms on top, tiny microorganisms carry on …"

2. Highlight the phrase that tells what snails do to help the pond.

3. According to the video, why do some frogs play dead when they feel threatened?
   A. To confuse other frogs
   B. To make predators leave them alone
   C. To stay warm on cool nights
   D. To scare away insects

4. Drag and drop these three frog survival strategies into the order presented in the video:
   ___ Frogs make warning calls at dawn
   ___ Bright colors warn predators to stay away
   ___ Frogs play dead when threatened

**Writing Task**
Consider what you have learned about pond ecosystems and frog survival from the two sources. You will now construct an original opinion paragraph using your own ideas. In your paragraph, answer the research question for the specific purpose and audience shown below.

**Research Question: Why is it important to protect frog habitats?**

**Purpose**: To provide and support your opinion about protecting frog habitats
**Audience**: Your classmates and teacher

Be sure to give reasons for your opinion and support these reasons with information from the sources. Refer to the Writer's Checklist as you write and edit your paragraph.

**Writer's Checklist**

- introduce my opinion on a topic.
- organize and group information in a way that makes sense for my purpose and audience.
- support my reasons with ideas and information from the sources to develop my opinion on the topic.
- expand on my ideas and reasons by using techniques to support my opinion.
- use linking words, conjunctions, and transition words or phrases to connect reasons to my opinion.
- provide a concluding statement or section.
- use complete sentences and a variety of sentence structures.
- use correct verb tense.
- use correct subject and verb agreement.
- check my work and correct any errors in spelling, capitalization, punctuation, usage, or grammar.