

# Animal Studies



## Shipment #1

frogs  
elodea

## Shipment #2

fiddler crabs

## Shipment #3

land snails  
moss mats

## **ADVANCED PREPARATION NEEDED**

**Age water (24-72 hours)**

### Frogs:

- Use distilled or treated tap water.
- If using chlorine remover drops be sure to use the correct amount.
- Water should be approximately room temperature prior to adding the frogs.
- Frogs should be placed into the habitats within 3-4 hours of delivery.
- Acclimate frogs to temperature and pH by removing one cup of shipping water and replacing it with one cup conditioned, room temperature water. Repeat after 15 minutes to give the frogs a less stressful transition.
- Gently transfer frogs from shipping water using the aquarium net. Hold hand over net to prevent the frogs from jumping out.
- Do not overfeed
- Do not overcrowd
- Habitats need a lid because frogs jump. Indirect light is also needed.
- Extreme temperature changes can cause loss. (Think about weekends without heating or cooling)

### Fiddler Crabs:

- Need a moist environment
- Avoid temperature extremes
- Use distilled, treated, or aged water.
- Salt is not necessary (if it is used only use a small amount to teach the concept)

## *FAQs*

Q. How do I keep my fiddler crabs healthy?

A. The most important things to do are to keep them at a consistent temperature and to keep the water in the bowl changed on a regular basis.

Q. Will the fiddler crabs mate?

A. You may observe courtship behavior in which the male waves his large claw to attract the female. Usually the male must have a burrow before the female will mate with him. There is not enough sand in the terrarium for the male to excavate a burrow, although he may try.

Q. How long do fiddler crabs live?

A. In the wild, no one knows. In captivity they can live for a school year with good care.

Q. Can I keep 2 or more males in a terrarium?

A. Probably. Male fiddler crabs may wrestle, push, and shove each other, especially in the presence of a female. These matches rarely result in injury, but a losing crab may be stressed.

Q. A crab has molted. What do I do?

A. In most cases, no additional care is needed. Do not remove the molted skin. Over the next several days the crab will eat it, providing needed calcium. The crab will be fragile for several days after a molt. If another crab is bothering it, remove it for a few days.

## **Land snails:**

- Land snails are herbivores. Pieces of fruit and vegetables should be placed in their habitat. A small piece of chalk should also be a part of their environment to help maintain a strong healthy shell.
- If the habitat becomes dry, they may form a protective film and become inactive. Placing them in a small bowl of room temperature water for 3-4 minutes will dissolve the protective film. The snails will then become active.
- Snails are strong! Make sure the lid is very secure!
- <http://lhsfoss.org/fossweb/teachers/materials/plantanimal/landsnails.html>