

# Marble Mantella Frogs



## Engage and Reflect

Watch *Virtual Vitamin Z - Discover More About Mantella Frogs*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmDhW5zm3EE>



## Skills

- Observations
- Color recognition
- Improve short-term memory
- Improve concentration
- Improve the ability to find similarities and differences



## NGSS Science and Engineering Practices

- Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits
- Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity



## Experience

- 5-10 minutes
- 1 or more people

Each species of mantella frog has a distinct pattern and each individual frog has his or her own unique marks. Closely observe different species of mantellas to identify coloration and patterns. You can recreate patterns on pieces of paper using color combinations of nail polish to make different species of frogs. Make two of every species to use them as memory match cards.



## Celebrating and Saving Wildlife

The National Amphibian Conservation Center is a state-of-the-art facility for amphibian conservation and research. Animal care staff lead and support conservation and research work that is critical for endangered populations, including the endangered mantella frog found only on the island of Madagascar.



## Take Action

The pet trade contributes to declining populations of vulnerable amphibians in the wild. Keeping exotic pets can also spread diseases through local amphibian populations. You can help protect exotic and local species by making responsible pet choices and by not releasing captive animals into the wild.



# Marbled Mantella Frogs

## Tools

Nail Polish  
Card Stock  
Container  
Water  
Pin  
Scissors



*1 or more people*

## Directions

- Closely observe pictures of different species of mantella frogs. Take note of the different colors and patterns on each species.
- Choose combinations of different shades of nail polish for each species. (Choose any color combinations you like.)
- Fill a container with room temperature water.
- Carefully, use the nail polish brush to drop small drops of nail polish onto the water. Drops should stay on the surface of the water, if they sink, try again!
- Using the pin, marble the drops to create different markings for each frog.
- Dip your paper face-down into the water.
- Carefully pull it and use the pin to remove remaining paint from the water.
- Repeat steps to make more! Make two for each color combination.
- Once the paper has dried, cut out frog shapes.
- Use your cutouts to play a memory match game. The more combinations you make, the more challenging the game will be.

Notes - If your nail polish is too dry and is not easily dripping, add a drop of acetone into the container and shake it to loosen it up.

Use marbled paper to make gift tags. Use larger sheets of marbled paper and larger containers to make unique artwork or to use as gift wrap.