

Using Models

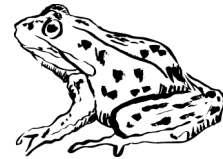
Goal • Become familiar with the concept of scientific models.

Think About It

Scientists use models as a way to explain parts of the natural world. A scientific model could be a labelled diagram design, an object, a way of thinking about something, or a construction you make from modelling clay or other materials. Skill Power 4, on page 301 of your text, describes several different types of scientific model.

What to Do

- Read Skill Power 4 on page 301 of *BC Science 7*.
- Answer the questions below.



Questions

- Which of the following items are examples of scientific models? Answer “yes” or “no.”
 - a labelled diagram that shows the digestive system of a frog _____
 - an aquarium that has been set up to represent a frog’s natural habitat _____
 - a living frog _____
- Scientists use models to describe Earth. In Unit 3 of this Science course, you will encounter some of these models. An orange, an egg, or a basketball could all be used as models of Earth. Each one of these models illustrates at least one characteristic of Earth.
 - For each of the three models listed above, explain what characteristic(s) the model shares with Earth.
 - an orange: _____
 - an egg: _____
 - a basketball: _____
 - None of these three models exactly represents Earth. Explain how each of the three models is different from our planet.
 - an orange: _____
 - an egg: _____
 - a basketball: _____
 - In your opinion, which of these models describes Earth the best? Give reasons to support your answer.

