

Louis the Frog - A Mystery Story

Hop through this story with me (Louis the frog) to find out why frogs jump.

Long ago in Africa, when frogs didn't jump and while the owl was learning to be wise, an owl lived in a humongous, old cave. One day, he said to himself, "I really do wonder which animal is best at climbing." So he asked his good friend the elephant, "Do you know who the best climber in the world is?"

"No, I do not," answered the elephant, "But, I know how to find out. Listen, go and ask Michelle the goose, if she could fly round the world and say to all the animals she sees 'Go to "The Congo," There is a competition to see who's the best at climbing.' Then we'll find out for sure. "

"Great idea." said the owl. And that's what happened.

The day the competition dawned, all the animals had arrived at the cliff face (which was the starting point). Ridion, the lizard was already boasting that she was going to win. "I bet I'm going to win" she snarled at me, and then the owl announced, "There are going to be two different sections, the big animals and the small animals. If you are bigger than a koala you are in the big section. Every animal is to climb up this cliff and the first one to the top wins. The prize is a new home wherever you choose plus a golden crown. Please get at your starting line."

About five minutes later the elephant trumpeted to start the race. Ridion was in the lead, well; at least she thought she was. I'm not telling you who was in front of her; it'll just spoil the story. I was not getting very far but I was desperate to win the prize. Imagine not having to share my home with hundreds of brothers and sisters. I try running... nope, that doesn't work, it only hurts. All of a sudden, an acorn fell out of a tree and hit me on the bottom. It gave me such a fright I jumped into the air! I landed with the slightest bump on... It wasn't on the ground; I was standing on a stick sticking out of the cliff. I looked down. I was a metre off the ground! I jumped again, this time onto a ledge of rock and again, up even higher. I was amazed! I could jump! By jumping I had a chance of winning!

Meanwhile, Ridion was getting tired. She was just about half way when she saw the spider, Yucan clambering up in front of her, she began chasing him!

I kept jumping until I saw the sly lizard, Ridion. The little brat wasn't far ahead of me and more importantly, she was very close to Yucan. Yucan swerved to the left as far as he could, hoping that the lizard would fall off the edge.

I saw my chance; I jumped along the narrow path managing to leave Ridion and Yucan behind. I jumped two more times and then stopped to stretch my legs. Out of the corner of my eye I saw something familiar. Black and white checks on long poles? I

raked my mind, trying to think what it is. I jumped a little more and I realised that it was the finishing line!

I kept jumping and then a cheer went up as I jumped over the finishing line, first! I won the race!

Ridion sped up to the finishing line after me, the shock on her face when she saw me! "I cannot believe that you beat me. I bet you cheated."

"Well he didn't" said the blackbird who was watching from above, "I saw every bit of it."

So, that's why frogs jump. What happened to Yucan you say? Well, Ridion ate him!