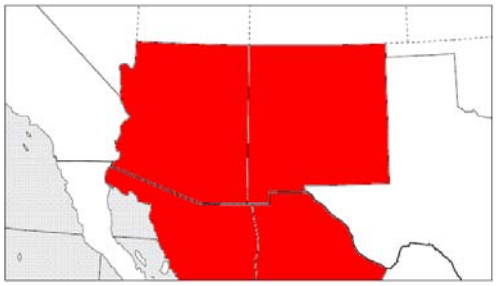
Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity
Episode 11: Chiricahua Leopard Frog Status

Part A: *The paragraph below is a summary of the leopard frog diversity discussed in the podcast. However, there are five mistakes. Identify and correct these errors.*

> There are ~~fifteen~~ twenty species of leopard frogs found in the world. However, before the early ~~'90s~~ '70s, they were all considered the same species, *Rana ~~americanus~~ pipiens*. The lowland leopard frog was the most recent species to be described. Arizona has ~~one~~ five native species and ~~five~~ one introduced species of leopard frog.

Part B: *Below is a partial map of the region commonly referred to as the Southwest. Shade in the states, in the U.S. and Mexico, where the Chiricahua leopard frog is currently found.*



Part C: *Answer each question below in complete sentences. The answers are not necessarily included in the content. They may require some critical thinking.*

1. Evelyn Fox Keller, a famous physicist, once wrote: "To know the history of science is to recognize the mortality of any claim to universal truth." What does this mean? Does this make science wrong? How does the leopard frog serve as an example of what Keller was talking about?

Answers will vary. Basically, Keller is saying that those items we recognize as "facts" can change as new information becomes available. Often, this happens because our technology improves, allowing us to make better observations or measurements. This does not make science wrong. The claims, or facts, were as correct as our tools and methods at the time could give us. Generally, the facts don't change a lot, they simply get modified. The leopard frog is a good example. Before the '70s, all the species were thought to be one species. However, as genetic technologies improved, we saw distinct differences between the species, giving us a better understanding of the frogs.

2. Why is it important to work with landowners if we want to successfully save endangered species?

Answers will vary. By listing an organism as threatened or endangered, specific rules about what you can and cannot do to the habitat are put in place. If the plant or animal is found on private property, these rules can often greatly restrict the landowners. It may even impact their livelihood. This will often cause those landowners to resent the organisms and their conservation. So, if we learn to work with these landowners, and, in some cases, give them exemptions or modifications, then they are more likely to support the conservation efforts.

