

# EDUCATION

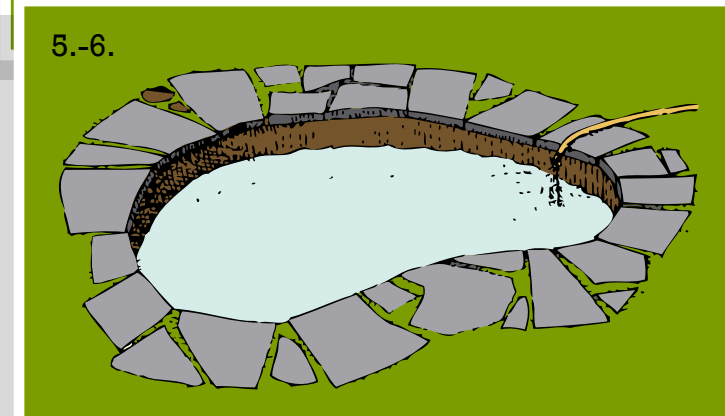
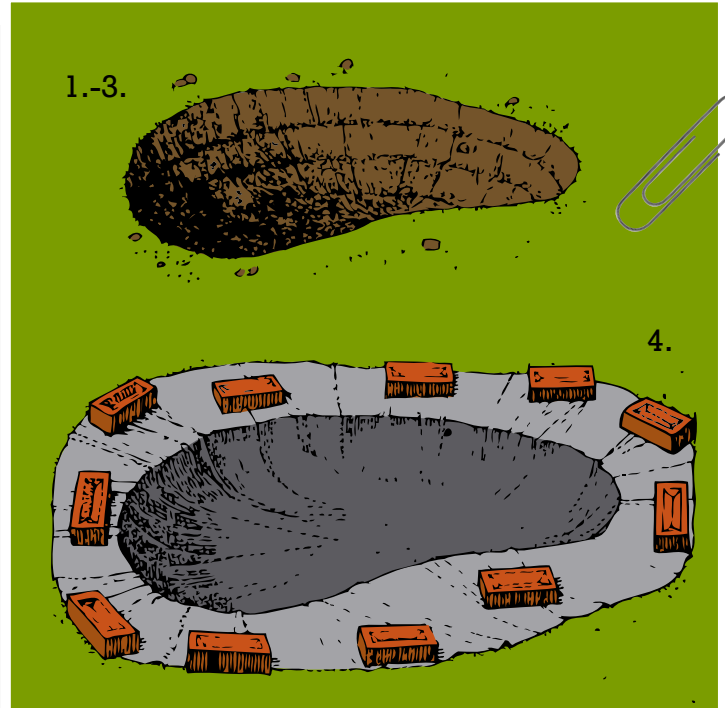
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Many of the plants and animals you collect pond dipping can be put into a garden pond. Your garden pond can be any size you like from 1 metre square upwards, but it must be at least 40cms deep in the centre. Shallower water may freeze solid in Winter and kill the animals.

Choose a suitable site in the garden. The pond should not be exposed to sun all day but just get either the morning or evening sun. Try not to dig the pond under trees as it will fill up with dead leaves in the Autumn.

You can buy a ready-made 'instant' fibreglass pond and all you have to do is dig a hole and drop it in, or you can make a pond using a pond liner of butyl rubber or thick black plastic.

1. Dig a hole with sloping sides to prevent the sides caving in.
2. Dig the hole on at least 2 levels for different types of pond life, with a deep area in the middle for creatures to hide.
3. If sharp rocks project line the hole with old newspapers and sand. This stops any sharp rocks piercing the plastic lining sheet.
4. Lay the liner into the hole and put bricks around the edge to support it and smooth it into place.
5. Fill the pond with water and put turf or paving stones over the edges of the liner.
6. The pond is ready to stock.



DRAGONFLY



WATERLILY



BULRUSHES

# MAKING A GARDEN POND

## STOCKING THE GARDEN POND

At first the pond will seem bare but plants will gradually take over.

It is important to stock your pond with the correct species of plant.

Plants that supply the water with oxygen should be planted first in the middle of the pond. These plants include water starwort, stonewort, water milfoil and other pond weeds. Then choose plants that float and others that grow around the pond sides in the shallower water. A layer of soil can be put on the bottom of the pond, but it is better to grow rooted plants in old buckets or wire baskets so that they can be removed easily. Mud will gather on the bottom of the pond through natural processes.

Pond snails, frog spawn, the larvae of insects, etc., can be obtained from natural ponds (see EDU005 Pond Dipping). Gradually a natural well-balanced community will develop. A well-balanced pond with plenty of plants should not cause any maintenance problems.

There are many books to help you identify the plants and animals in your garden pond.

“Observers Book of Pond Life” J. Clegg (pub. Warne)

“The Young Scientist Investigators Pond Life” T. Jennings (pub. Oxford)

POND CROSS-SECTION



GREAT POND SNAIL



FROG



YELLOW FLAG

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