

Learning objectives

- To investigate a pond habitat.
- To be able to identify a number of common pond creatures.
- To be able to understand the life cycle of pond creatures.
- To understand simple food chains and webs.

30-40
mins

KS1
& 2

Teacher Preparation

Site visit, risk assessment, photocopy and laminate one or two ID charts for the group, photocopy observation sheets for pupils (key stage 2 only).

Equipment & Resources

- Pond dipping nets
- Jam jars
- Flat inspection trays (old lunch boxes do the trick – white is best)
- A hand lens or magnifying glass
- ID charts

Main activity

1. Approach your pond very quietly and slowly. You never know what animal life might be visible at the water's edge.
2. Fill the inspection tray with about 3-4cm of water. There must be enough water for the animals to swim about.
3. Sweep your net backwards and forwards across the pond and then carefully tip the contents of your net into the trays.
4. Using the pond ID charts get the children to identify the creatures they have found. They can record their observations using a tally chart or make sketches of their findings.

REMEMBER - Always put the animals back into the pond when you have finished looking at them.

Safety points

Take great care when near water. Don't put your hands in the water or touch the creatures. Ensure the kids wash their hands thoroughly after the activity.

Follow up activities

Write a short account of your visit to the pond. You could include the following information:

- The name of your school
- The date
- What season of the year
- What the weather was like
- What equipment you used
- Describe the park and the pond
- Include a list of all the animals you found
- Say what you found out about pond life
- Compare the pond to another habitat you have visited
- Say if you enjoyed your visit

Make a graph of all the species you found (bar chart, pie chart etc).

Draw the creatures you found. Write a short description of them.

Put these lists in the correct sequence:

- a. Butterfly, egg, caterpillar, chrysalis
- b. Egg, pupa, adult, larva
- c. Spawn, tadpole with gills, frog. Tadpole with lungs
- d. Egg, dragonfly, nymph