

Life-cycles in ponds – half day option

We recommend from late April to October only.

Children will collect animals from a pond within the Suntrap grounds. Back in the classroom, they will use magnifiers to observe, identify and group the animals that they found. They will compare life-cycle changes in a variety of living things including amphibians and insects and record this in a worksheet.

Learning objectives

- to use classification keys to group, identify and name living things from the pond habitat
- to name and understand the different stages of insect and amphibian life-cycles



Some suggestions for visit preparation

1. Introduce important vocabulary, *nymph*, *larva*, *pupa* using familiar animals as examples, e.g. a butterfly.
2. Discuss the life cycle of a frog and consider differences in the animal at each stage, e.g. how they breathe, what they look like.

Follow on suggestions

1. Compare the life cycles of mammals and birds with insects and amphibians.
2. Make a model of the life cycle of a newt or an insect that was seen in the pond.

National curriculum links

Y4 Science

Living things and their habitats

- recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways
- explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment



Y5 Science

Living things and their habitats.

- describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird
- describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.



EVENT SPECIFIC RISK ASSESSMENT

Visit details: Pond animals

Carried out by: Suntrap Centre

Date: Dec 2017

Issue	How to manage it
Understanding/behaviour	Class teacher to advise Suntrap staff of any children who may need extra support out in the forest/ at the pond to help them to follow instructions. School to ensure that there is appropriate adult: children ratios as required.
Medical conditions	Suntrap staff to check that school staff brings medication out into the forest or grounds. All adults to be made aware of any medical conditions. Suntrap staff will carry a first aid kit.
Getting lost	Keep within sight of teacher/adult & observe boundaries as directed by the staff.
Choking/Poisoning	No eating outside unless directly instructed by Suntrap staff.
Water borne disease	Children instructed not to put fingers in mouth during/after activities which involve putting hands into water. Open cuts should be kept dry and/or covered. Hands should be washed with warm soapy water before eating lunch/snack. If animals have been in classroom, tables cleaned with disinfectant before lunch/snack.
Injury through falling & throwing	Climbing of trees and throwing sticks/stones prohibited.
Getting wet/cold	Clothing should be appropriate for weather conditions. i.e hat, coat and gloves.
Deep Water	Children instructed to: take care at the edge of the pond, only one student per group at a time to be at pond edge, stand with a wide stance for balance, and don't over-reach with the net. Care will be taken when leaving the pond with the long net. Suntrap staff will carry a throw rope as a precaution. If working at field pond, children will be instructed to kneel when filling tray/emptying tray at dipping station.