

Ponds – classification & food chains – half day option

We recommend from late April to October only.

Children collect animals from a pond within the Suntrap grounds for close observation and study. They will identify and group the animals (with the aid of magnifiers) using keys. The animals collected will be used in examples of food chains in the pond habitat.

Learning objectives

- to use classification keys to group, identify and name living things from the pond habitat
- to explore the reasons why an animal is in a particular group
- to construct and understand food chains from a pond habitat
- to understand how the pond is looked after by Suntrap staff to keep it as a habitat



Some suggestions for visit preparation

1. Introduce important vocabulary; *habitat, predator, prey, producer, consumer, herbivore, carnivore, omnivore, invertebrate, vertebrate.*
2. Use simple keys to sort pictures of living things.

Follow on suggestions

1. Create a guide to tell people about the pond in Suntrap garden, including what animals live there, how to carefully collect animals from it and how to look after a pond habitat.
2. Put the animals found in the pond into a food chain, researching which birds may be the top predator in this habitat. This will be introduced in the session.

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
- recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things

Animals, including humans

- construct and interpret a variety of food chains, identifying producers, predators and prey



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.