

Life in the Pond

Synopsis

Pre-K—6th, upper

** Please have your students wear their own rubber boots if possible. If not, we have rubber boots to share with children and adults.



Summary

The pond is full of life, both floating on the water and deep in the mud. Use nets, identification sheets and more to catch and identify macroinvertebrates, tadpoles, frogs and other pond dwellers.

MN Academic Standards

supported during HNC program. More standards can be supported with pre- and post lesson activities.

Science

- 0.4.1.1.3 ~ living vs. nonliving
- 0.4.2.1.1 ~ life in natural systems
- 1.4.2.1.1 ~ animal survival needs
- 1.4.2.1.2 ~ habitats provide needs
- 1.4.3.1.1 ~ animal life cycles
- 5.4.2.1.1 ~ MN natural systems

Authenticity

Data such as number of species and individuals contributes to Hartley's environmental data collection.

Goals & Objectives

This program will:

- Take an up-close look at life in the pond
- Discuss water as a habitat
- Describe and demonstrate stages of metamorphosis
- Use scientific equipment to collect pond animals, record data and classify animals

Students will be able to:

- Recognize different animals who depend on water to live
- Identify species by comparing collected animals with pictures or keys
- List species observed

Activities

In the Classroom

- Use whiteboard, pictures, and/or stuffed animals (age dependent) to discuss "what is a pond?", "who lives in a pond?", and "what tools will we use to learn about the pond?"

In the Field

- Visit a pond in Hartley Park. Use dipping nets, magnifying glasses, identification sheets, and/or microscopes to sample pond life and identify several species.

Bad Weather Alternative

Station Rotation of:

- Observe aquatic macroinvertebrates using microscopes and magnifying glasses (HNC educators will catch critters before your arrival)
- Frog calling game
- Pond predator/prey games
- Observe live animals in building: turtles, salamander, snakes, fish