Pond Explorations

Grades: PreK - 2

Standards
Michigan K-12 Standards in Science

Next Generation Science Standards

STEM Connection
Pond exploration lets students get their feet wet in all sorts of STEM focused activities; from species identification to habatat health the pond is filled to the gills with STEM systems.

Urban Futures Connection
Aquatic habitats can be found in both urban and rural areas alike. We will focus on how these habitats interact with the larger ecosystem and why they are an important aspect in our Urban Future.

Take Home
Activity worksheets are available via email upon request.

Overview
Pond programs will be held at the historical Rose Garden Pond on the grounds of the Henry Ford Estate. This shallow, easily accessible pond is perfect for discovering native aquatic life.

Details
- This program lasts 2 hours and can be adapted to suit your needs
- Offered from mid-April to mid-November
- Appropriate for Grade Levels PreK-12th

The Experience
In this program students will be engaged in a multifaceted program experience with activities that may include:
- Using dip nets to capture and examine various pond creatures
- Examining some of the adaptations, life cycles, and roles in the pond food web
- Using aquatic life identification key to identify creatures they may find

Helpful Hints
This program will be held in the great outdoors, rain or shine, please make sure students are dressed for the weather. While we practice pond safety please pay close attention while using dip nets.

Standards

Kindergarten
K-LS1-1
Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.**

- Students will discuss qualities that all plants and animals need to survive.

K-ESS3-3
Communicate solutions that will reduce the impact of humans on the land, water, air, and/or other living things in the local environment. * **

- Students will discuss ways they can protect water habitats in their own communities.

1st Grade
1-ESS1-2
Make observations at different times of year to relate the amount of daylight to the time of year. **

- Students will relate seasonal changes to the life cycles of aquatic species.

1-LS3-1
Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.

- Students will examine several aquatic species, describing the similarities and differences from their juvenile to their adult forms.

2nd Grade
2-LS4-1
Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. **

- Students will experience the diverse world of aquatic life and be asked to juxtapose that habitat with others they are familiar with.

2-ESS1-1
Use information from several sources to provide evidence that Earth events can occur quickly or slowly. *

- Students will use season and yearly time scales of aquatic habitats to consider change over time.