

Links tested: 7/21/25

University of Michigan Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center Pond Explorations Program, Pre and Post-Visit Resources: Grades PreK-2

Welcome to the Pond Explorations program resource page. Here you will find links to resources pertaining to this program, along with important concepts and relevant literature. Certain links are for short, educational, program-specific videos, while others are images, sounds, worksheets, or fact sheets related to the program. Descriptions are included with the links. The pre-visit resources will help introduce students to our Pond Explorations program and the post-visit resources will help reinforce their experiences.

All of the resources provide supplementary and complementary information for the program. Enjoy!

Pre-Visit Resources:

Introductory Concepts:

Habitat - place where plants and animals live

Life Cycle - the growth that a living thing goes through from birth to death

Adaptation - a special skill or body part that helps an organism survive in the wild

Aquatic - relating to water

Sights and Sounds: (video and/or audio)

Frog Sounds (recordings of calls of frogs found in the Midwest, including Michigan)

Dragonflies for kids (2:13 minute video about dragonflies as nymphs and adults, great for young children)

<https://www.youtubekids.com/watch?v=ID-LNsQkym4>

Literature:

Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner

In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming

Are You a Dragonfly? by Judy Allen

Life in the Pond (Habitats around the World) by Craig Hammersmith

Additional Information/Worksheets:

Guide to mini beasts in pond (images of pond creatures, divided by number of legs, easy to interpret for young children)

<https://www.backwoodsmama.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Pond-Minibeasts-Identification.pdf>

Aquatic Insects (images and descriptions of Michigan aquatic insects)

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Aquatic_insect_guide_692087_7.pdf

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Post-Visit Resources:

Concepts to Reinforce: (in addition to the introductory concepts)

Camouflage - the ability to blend in with one's surroundings

Predator/Prey - the hunter/the hunted

Healthy Habitat Needs - food, water, shelter, and space

Herbivore/Omnivore/Carnivore - eats only plants/eats both plants and meat/eats only meat

Additional Literature:

Beyond the Pond by Joseph Kuefler

The Big Book of Bugs by Yuval Zommer

Would you rather be a Pollywog: All About Pond Life (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library) by Bonnie Worth

Additional Information: (articles, documents, videos, images)

How a Tadpole transforms into a Frog (really cool, 3 minute video-short skippable ad at start)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gmlaclb3K2o>

Adventures by the Pond (a bit longer video-16:30 minutes-but great information/review and images of creatures for young children-could definitely watch in parts)

<https://www.youtubekids.com/watch?v=T-OUdFXuq88>

All kinds of pond-themed activities/games for Pre-K students (includes science, math, literacy activities)

<https://www.prekinders.com/pond-life-theme/>