

University of Michigan Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center Pond Explorations Program, Pre and Post-Visit Resources: Grades 3-5

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

Ecosystem - all living and nonliving things in an area

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

Metamorphosis - process some animals go through to become adults

Photosynthesis - process in which green plants use sunlight to make their own food

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

Sights and Sounds: (video and/or audio)

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

Time lapse of dragonfly transformation (2 minute video with skippable ad at start-
Smithsonian Channel video about metamorphosis of dragonfly)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cyt4HtcMPgg>

Literature:

Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner

A Freshwater Pond (Small Worlds) by Adam Hibbert

Additional Information/Worksheets:

Aquatic Insects (images and descriptions of Michigan aquatic insects)

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

Aquatic Insects (11 page document with great images/descriptions of aquatic insects that are found in the pond)

Creatures of Pond (3 page document with labeled drawings of aquatic creatures)
<https://www.backwoodsmama.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Pond-Minibeasts-Identification.pdf>

Post-Visit Resources:

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

Biodiversity - the variety of life in a habitat or ecosystem

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

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

Predator/Prey - the hunter/the hunted

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

Diagram of complete vs. incomplete metamorphosis (6 page document that reviews types of metamorphosis and includes worksheet for students)

<https://images.app.goo.gl/wF2TWDLRA8ZUYVAGA>

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

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