



THE WILDLIFE TRUSTS
WALES

KS2 Pond Creatures Lesson Plan

AIM

To understand and respect all creatures

OBJECTIVES

To understand what creatures live in a pond

To understand the importance of pond creatures

To be able to identify a number of common pond creatures

To be able to understand the life cycle of a number of pond creatures

CURRICULUM LINKS

English EN1 Speaking and Listening

EN3 Writing

Citizenship 5a To take responsibility

Science 2 Life Processes and Living things

EQUIPMENT

ID keys

Collecting pots

Pond dipping nets

Beakers

Plastic spoons

Plastic trays

Gloves

Wellies

SAFETY POINTS

Make sure the group is calm before they start. Point out the hazards of muddy slopes, leaning forward, running, being aware of equipment.

PRELIMINARY ACTIVITIES

Discuss what creatures live in a pond. Discuss if these creatures live in the pond all the time. Frogs and toads will only be in the pond when it is time to breed and rear young. After this they will be hiding in the wet grass and under logs.

Discuss the life cycle of some of the animals that live in the pond, such as dragonflies, damselflies, frogs, mosquitos. So, many of the creatures that we find are nymphs and will live in the water for up to 4 years and then will come out of the pond and fly away.

MAIN ACTIVITY

Show the children the equipment that they are going to take out with them and how they use each item. It is important that they don't lose the creatures after they have caught them, but even more important, they should not need to touch any of the creatures with their hands.

Go to the pond and get the children to fill the tray with water and then start dipping. Children should empty the nets into the tray after each dip as many creatures are too hard to see in the net. When trays are full, creatures can be scooped up with the plastic spoon and put into a secure beaker.

Bring a selection of creatures back into the classroom and look closely at them using microscopes or magnifying glasses. Use the simple classification keys to recognise the features and identify them.

Remember to put your creatures back in the pond when you have finished.

FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES

Think about what we need to survive. Pond creatures also use a number of adaptations to help them survive. Using wildlife pictures, think about how each creature breathes, eats, avoids being eaten, attracts a mate and moves.

Using post it notes, play what am I? Where each child has a post it note on their head and asks a question to try and work out what creature they are.

Children imagine themselves as a pond creature and describe a day in a life of..... They can write a story or poem about what they can see, hear, how they get food etc.

VOCAB

Adaptation, community, food chain, food web, habitat, predator, prey.