

Pond Dipping



There is more life in ponds than meets the eye!



From snails to spiders, ponds are an exciting habitat that are teeming with life of all shapes and sizes! How many aquatic minibeasts can you find?

What you'll need

- Tray, filled with 1-2 inches of pond water
- Fishing net
- Identification sheet (below)
- Magnifying glass (optional)
- Camera, pen, pencil, paper (optional)

What to do/instructions:

1. With an adult, carefully sit or lie on the edge of the pond. Take care, the edges of the pond might be slippery!
2. Dip your net into the pond and move it in a figure of 8 through the water.
3. Do this a few times then turn your net inside out in the water in the tray to release any animals.
4. Move the tray away from the pond so you can safely observe the animals.
5. Use our identification sheet of common pond animals to see what you have found. If you have a magnifying glass, you can use this to get a closer look.
6. You could also draw, photograph, or write a description of animals that you see.
7. When you are finished, release the animals by gently pouring the contents of the tray back into the pond.
8. When you get home, make sure to clean your tray and net ready for your next pond dipping activity!

Other ideas...

- If there were animals you couldn't identify, do some research to find out what they are so you know for next time.
- Make your own pond life bingo game for the next time you go pond dipping.
- Try going to a different pond or waterbody and see if you can spot different minibeasts this time.



Identification sheet



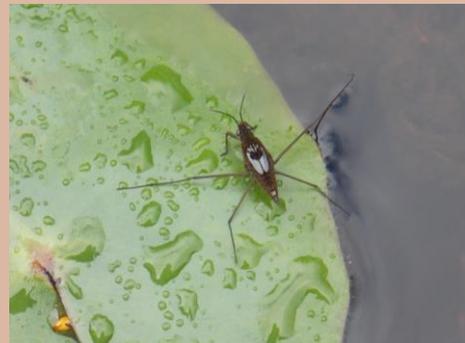
Common newt



Diving beetle



Water boatman



Pond skater



Tadpole



Leech



Pond snail



Water spider