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## *Water Wonderland Pond-de-licious time*

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With some simple tools, kids can have fun learning about and the animals that live in ponds and other bodies of water

### **MAKE IT FUN:**

#### **Getting to Know a Frog Up Close and Personal**

**CAUTION – The oils and chemicals on human hands (think sunscreen, bug spray and lotions) can irritate a frog's skin, causing discomfort and potential damage to their mucus layer which helps protect them so do not catch them with your bare hands**

#### **THINGS YOU'LL NEED:**

Rubber boots or shoes you don't mind getting muddy and wet

Net or rubber gloves

Container filled ½ way with pond water to hold the frog



#### **Catching a frog is hard.**

They are slippery and have very quick reflexes. When you see one you think you can reach with your net, crouch down low. Slowly and carefully put the net in the water under the frog and quickly scoop up. Being caught by a big human giant is not a frog's idea of fun Do not squeeze the frog once you have caught it.

Turn the net upside down into the large mouth container so you can look at it without harming it.

**AND THEN RELEASE IT BACK INTO ITS HOME**

## FROG RIDDLES

*Q: Why are frogs always happy?*

*A: Because they eat whatever bugs them*

*Q: What happens when two frogs catch the same fly?*

*A: They get tongue-tied!*

*Q: What happens if a frog parks in a bus stop?*

*A: It gets toad away*

*Q: What is a frog's favorite exercise?*

*A: Jumping Jacks*

*Q: What is a frog's favorite year?*



## Herps Do Not Pick Scavenger Hunt

<p>Leaf Litter</p> 	<p>Leaf litter is home to many insects such as centipedes as well as worms which amphibians eat</p>	 <p>A toad or a frog</p>
<p>Insects</p> 	<p>A Predator</p> 	<p>Mallards eat a variety of foods including frogs, aquatic plants and insects</p>
<p>Listen for a frog calling</p> 	<p>THORNCRAG</p> 	<p>Moss</p> 
<p>A turtle sunning itself near a pond</p> 	<p>Rock Pile</p> 	<p>A Pond</p> 

# FUN FACTS ABOUT FROGS TOADS AND TURTLES

Frogs and toads both start life in the water. Their mothers lay eggs in a puddle or near a stream. The fathers fertilize the eggs and sometimes move them to a wetter place. The fathers carry the eggs in their mouths or even on their backs.

After the eggs hatch, the tadpoles or polliwogs, as they are sometimes called, live in the water for several weeks. They have a tail like a fish and they breathe through gills.

Frogs and toads eat worms, spiders, slugs and snails.

Frogs can make all kinds of sounds including clicks, whistles, grunts, and trills. They make almost all their sounds with their mouths closed

Turtles belong to one of the oldest reptile groups in the world dating back to the time of the dinosaurs, over 200 million years ago

Just like your bones, a turtle's shell is actually part of its skeleton. It's made up of over 50 bones which include the turtle's rib cage and spine.

Turtles don't have teeth

## **Other Fun Activities:**

- 1) Grab a large plastic storage container (preferably clear or white), a cup and a magnifying glass if you have one. Scoop some pond water into the container, and see what you can find. What can you see? Look closely! Do you see anything moving?
  
- 2) Take along a pair of binoculars and look for turtles sunning themselves on logs in the water or frogs peering out from the water
  
- 3) Take a walk to a pond several times from spring to fall, recording what you see each time. After a few visits to the pond, compare how things have changed. Write your answers on a blank page in a nature journal (use the attached page to keep a record of your visit)
  - Do you notice new insects or that some are no longer present?
  - Why do you think this is?
  - Are there new plants present in the pond?

# My Visit to the Pond



My Name \_\_\_\_\_

Where I went

\_\_\_\_\_

Time of Day \_\_\_\_\_

I saw:

Insects

Birds

Frogs

Turtles

**Draw a picture of something you saw**

A large, empty rounded rectangular box with a dark blue border, intended for drawing a picture of something seen at the pond.

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q:** Why do Dragonflies dip their tails into the water?

**A:** Female dragonflies dip their tails in the water to lay eggs.

**Q:** Why are Dragonflies eyes so big?

**A:** Dragonflies' eyes are made up of many small eyes and can help them spot predators that might want to eat them! They are also looking for food and their big eyes help them to spot their prey.

**Q:** Is a water strider a spider?

**A:** No, water striders are not spiders. They are insects and have six legs. Spiders have 8 legs.

**Q:** What are the little black bugs that sometimes cover an area of water especially in the late winter and spring?

**A:** Water springtails are insects that can live on the surface of ponds, in quiet edges and sluggish places of streams, and other slow-moving water.

***These pages have been created by the Stanton Bird Club Lewiston, ME***