



MONTSHIRE AT HOME: POND LIFE

MONTSHIRE
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SCIENCE

Exploring Pond life

A healthy pond, lake or river is full of life, but sometimes you have to slow down and look closely to find it. Once you start to notice the tiny creatures, be prepared to be amazed by the diversity of life in the water.

Materials:

- ▶ Bucket
- ▶ Net
- ▶ Light colored tray with high sides or plastic dish pan
- ▶ Clear plastic cups or scooping containers
- ▶ Spoons
- ▶ Magnifying glass
- ▶ Pond life book (optional) or a good key can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/StroudCenter>

Instructions:

1. Find a safe place to collect pond life near the edge of your favorite body of water. Marshy areas are great places to start as many animals like to hide in the protection of the plants.
2. Add a couple of inches of water in your bucket so that it is ready for anything you catch.
3. If you see something interesting, use your cup or spoon to scoop it up. Look closer with your magnifying glass.
4. Transfer some of your sample to the flatter container with some of your collected water sample to better see anything moving around. If it is muddy, let the mud settle.
5. Use your cup or spoon if you find something so that you can look at even closer using your magnifying glass.
6. If you are in an area with rocks, pick up one from the bottom of the water and look at it closely. Sometimes you will notice something attached or moving across the surface.
7. Be on the lookout for frogs, newts, fish and turtles swimming around!