

Needs of Living Things

Materials: internet access

Preparation: Preview video.

Character Connection

Responsible - I can do what I am supposed to do.

Needs of Living Things

Video (3:02 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xHjgaOx568o>

What are the basic needs of all living things?

- Shelter
- Air
- Water
- Energy

In the Small, Small Pond

Materials: internet access

Preparation: Preview video.

Read Aloud Book

In the Small Small Pond by Denise Fleming

Video (2:28 min)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFfshdRwm3o>

- What are some rhyming words that sound the same in the story?
- What are the different animals living around the pond?
- How do they move differently? Can you act them out?
- Which animals go under water?
- Which animals float on the water?
- Which ones fly above the water?
- What do you think the muskrats are building? Why?
- Which animal goes to sleep in the pond at the end?

I Can Use My Senses to Learn About the World

Materials: containers (various sizes), measuring cups and spoons, towels *optional*: clean sponge, green food coloring

Preparation: Gather all materials. Place towels around your workspace.

Instructions:

1. Fill a few of the larger containers with water and add a few drops of food coloring. Pretend the water is pond water.
2. As children are pouring the water into different containers, cups, and measuring spoons, ask them to compare and describe how the weight of each container feels.

*If you don't have green food coloring, use any color to make it more fun.

Monet's Pond:

An Art Activity About Claude Monet's Most Famous Painting

Materials: crayons (green, white, and yellow), glue, internet access, paint (blue, green, purple, red, yellow, and white), paper (green and white), paper plate, scissors

Preparation: Gather all materials. Preview websites.

Link for instructions and more info:

<http://thebirdfeednyc.com/2016/07/18/monet-inspired-water-lily-pond-art-project-for-kids/>

Visual Resource - Detail of original painting:

<https://artsandculture.google.com/asset/water-lilies/AwFXeMnZK5jOBw>



Letter Sounds in My Pond

Materials: cloth/paper bag, letters: P.O.N.D.

Instructions:

Use magnet letters or write letters separately on small piece of paper and put in bag. Let your child pull each letter out and say the letter. Work together to put them in the correct order to spell the word "pond."

Make it Easier:

Write the word, pronounce it, and say each letter to spell the word before pulling them out of the bag.



From Tadpole to Frog

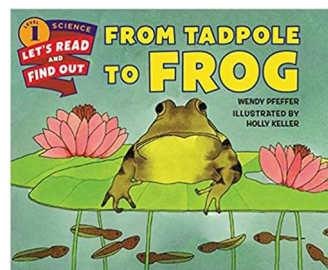
Materials: internet access

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

Read this story about where frogs come from, and then get ready to go outside and find a pond/puddle to explore.

<https://youtu.be/VnBiZPQNops>



Life Cycle of a Frog

Materials: crayons, internet access, paper

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

Watch the Tadpoles to Frogs video (2:49 min) as two young boys talk about the changes of the tadpoles in their pond.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GqCL3JenMCs>

Have your child draw pictures of the life cycle and help to label the stages.



Virtual Visit to the Pond Then Go Outside!

Materials: internet access

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

Watch the Pond Life video (5:03 min).

<https://youtu.be/uHdZb0LJZNQ>

Use these general time segments to talk about the following:

- Beginning – What do you hear? Can you make the same sound? Describe what you see.
- 0:53 – 1:05 – What do you see?
- 1:08 – 1:37 – What do you see? Can you say the colors you see? How do you describe the sounds?
- 1:38 – 1:48 – What do you see? Can you count the wings? Where is it going?
- 2:17 – 2:29 – Do you know what these could be?

Pond Containers

Materials: clear container to hold water, dirt and leaves from yard, permanent marker, small stones, water

Preparation: Collect dirt, stones, and leaves samples.

Vocabulary and Instructions:

Evaporation - turning water into water droplets in the air.

1. Line the bottom of the plastic container with collected items from the yard.
2. Fill container $\frac{1}{2}$ full of water slowly to finish. Did the water make your dirt/leaves move? If you have any plastic pond animals, add them.
3. Use permanent marker to mark the water level on the side of your pond container.
4. Set your pond near a window that gets plenty of light and measure the water level every day.
5. Use a calendar or make your own to record the daily water levels and any changes to your pond.

Leap Frog Straw Rockets

Materials: internet access

Preparation: Visit this site for instructions to make your frog rocket:

<https://idaniel4smom.com/2017/05/leap-frog-straw-rocket-printable.html>

Vocabulary and Instructions:

Ecosystem - organism (frog) communities (pond) that rely on each other

Frogs live near water for their food supply.

Research what frogs like to eat that might be found in ponds.



Cattails

Materials: construction paper, cotton balls, paint (brown), scissors, straws or pipe cleaners, tape or glue

Preparation: Protect work area.

Vocabulary and Instructions:

Cattails - tall reedy plants with furry spikes that grow near water

1. Paint several cotton balls brown; let dry.
2. Roll construction paper into a tube or use other listed materials.
3. Tape or glue your cotton balls on the "stem" of your cattail.
4. Make several and put them in a vase for a table.
5. Use this site for another creative method:

<https://www.allkidsnetwork.com/crafts/pond/cattails-craft.asp>

Oi Frog!

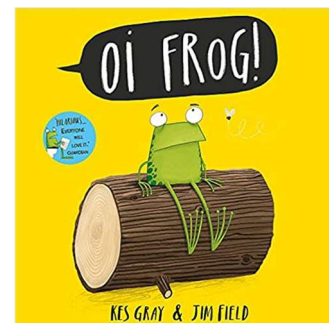
Materials: internet access

Preparation: Preview video.

Instructions:

Visit this YouTube website for a creative reading of the book:

<https://youtu.be/J2sAgbs-ebU>



Giant Scrabble Game

Materials: markers, paper

Preparation: Divide 8.5x11 inch paper into quarters. Write letters of the alphabet on each sheet. Duplicate vowels and consonants several times.

Instructions:

1. Using the game scrabble as a guide for the rules, try the game with your family.
2. Use a large open floor space to play.
3. If friends want to Facetime, you can make Giant Scrabble work by having all friends duplicate the same board.
4. Great game for some sunshine outdoors!



The Power of Five

Materials: crayons, paper, markers

Preparation: none

Instructions:

Start by naming all the things five, 5:

- **Easy:** fingers and toes
- **A little harder:** 5 pillows on a couch, the measuring cups in the kitchen, 2 sheets and 2 pillowcases plus 1 blanket = 5
- **Now let's get really creative:** a superhero with 5 noses (all the better to smell stinky villains!), 5 warm chocolate cookies (because who can eat just one!), your mom/dad, sister/brother (They were 5 once!)

You've got this now! What items can you add to the power of 5?

Make lists or draw pictures that show just how powerful 5 can be!

Be Kind

Materials: crayons, drawing paper, internet access, markers

Preparation: Preview the video.

Instructions:

Visit this YouTube website to hear *Be Kind: A Children's Story about things that matter*.

<https://youtu.be/kAo4-2UzgPo>

Invite children to draw/write stories and pictures about ways they can show kindness to others.



Virtual Museum Fun

Materials: internet access

Preparation: Preview website(s).

Instructions:

This famous museum in Washington has several virtual tours integrated directly onto the web. Use to following website to access the virtual tours:

<https://naturalhistory.si.edu/visit/virtual-tour>

Utilizing the star, place star at different levels on the wall.

1. Encourage your child to jump at/touch the star at various levels.
2. If multiple children, make it a fun competition.

Google Street View is another platform that has multiple virtual museum tours to offer. This is one of the more professional tours:

<https://www.google.com/culturalinstitute/beta/search/streetview?project=natural-history>

BOTH HAVE DINOSAURS!

Make a Butterfly Bush

Materials: construction paper (green and brown), cotton balls, glue or tape, markers, paint (pink or purple), paper, scissors (child-sized)

Instructions:

Butterflies are attracted to nectar that is produced by plant blossoms. They love the butterfly bush because of the particular nectar its flowers produce. Sometimes the mother butterfly will lay her eggs on the bush.

1. Cut some stems and branches for your bush and glue/tape them on the paper.
2. Use the green construction paper to cut some small skinny leaves – lots of leaves are needed!
3. Now shred the cotton balls into small fluffs and glue them to the leaves and branches. Paint them pink or purple!



I am a Beautiful Butterfly Dance

Materials: internet access, piece of material, scarf

Preparation: Preview the video.

Instructions:

1. Here is the link to watch video:
<https://youtu.be/ocWgSgMGxOc>
2. Talk about the changes a caterpillar goes through to become a butterfly.
3. Invite children to act the process in a creative dance.
4. Ask children to imagine being a caterpillar becoming a butterfly.



Butterfly, Butterfly Rap

Materials: internet access

Preparation: Preview the video.

Instructions:

1. Follow this link to learn a clever rap song about the stages of a butterfly – sure to entertain!

<https://youtu.be/8rvGUevGxDk>
2. Try rapping along with the song using some kitchen pots, pans, and spoons for some great percussion musical sounds! Everyone can be in the butterfly band!

