

Pond Dipping at Woodheys



KEY

- 1 Broad Bodied Chaser
- 2 Arrowhead
- 3 Yellow Flag Iris
- 4 Common Pond Skater
- 5 Whirligig Beetle
- 6 Water Spider
- 7 Common Duckweed
- 8 Water Milfoil
- 9 Ramshorn Snail
- 10 Water Boatman
- 11 Water Scorpion
- 12 Pond Snail
- 13 Newt
- 14 Immature Newt
- 15 Frog
- 16 Tadpole
- 17 Diving Beetle
- 18 Dragonfly Nymph
- 19 Leech
- 20 Canadian Pondweed
- 21 Water Spider



Equipment

Useful equipment for pond-dippers includes wellies, other waterproofs, white plastic trays, pots or ice-cream tubs, sieves, magnifying glasses, white plastic spoons for handling creatures, notebooks, pencils, identification guides and pond nets.

Aims: To learn how to find and identify pond animals and plants, developing a respect for them.



How to pond-dip

1. Approach the pond quietly as you may see birds, frogs or mammals around the edge of the pond. Spend some time looking for activity on and below the surface.
2. Then get things ready and half-fill the plastic trays and pots with pond water.
3. The first pond net sweeps, long and gentle, can be in the open water. Empty the net contents by turning the net inside out into the plastic tray then observe and record your findings. Some things don't look like animals at first, so you may have to wait until they start to move!
4. Next sweep the net gently around the submerged plants, being careful not to damage them. Look at your catch in a new tray of water.
5. Now sweep the net along the stems of the emerging plants around the edge of the pond. What did you see?
6. Then the net can be swept along the bottom of the pond, taking a very small amount of mud and washing this in the net before emptying the contents into a new tray of water.

Pond Life Code

Remember the animals' welfare too! Keep all creatures immersed in water. Return all animals to the water as soon as possible, ensuring that snails, worms etc. are washed from the sides of your containers. Frogs, toads and newts should not be kept under water for long periods as they can drown.



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