

Home Learning, E-Learning Ideas

Books are a wonderful way to start a learning engagement. Even though our travel may be limited right now, we can still learn about the great outdoors. Today we are going to read two books which describe the ecosystem of a pond.

The first book is Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner. In this story, a boy and his mother row their boat on a pond, looking for life above and below the pond.

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

The second book is On Duck Pond by Jane Yolen. In this story, a boy walks his dog around a pond, watching the ducks.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3jPFWsjqBg>

Lesson Ideas for Primary Elementary Students:

- ◆ As you listen to the books, make a list of animal life found in a pond ecosystem. List the animals on the charts found on the next two pages.
- ◆ As you listen to the books, make a list of plant life found in a pond ecosystem.
- ◆ Make a set of word cards for a pond habitat. On a 3 x 5 index card, draw a picture of a plant or animal that lives in a pond. Younger students can label the picture. Older students may write two sentences describing the plant or animal found in the pond habitat. Additional information on pond plants and animals is found at the end of each book.
- ◆ Students may create a model of a pond ecosystem. Ideas for a model include:
 - Make a model. See the following link for an idea.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xyWObZFUpT4>

- Create a diorama of a pond. Using an empty shoebox, students may draw a pond on the back wall of the box. Draw or cut out plants and animals that live above and below the surface of the pond.

- Draw a color resist of life below the pond. Using bright crayons, draw and color animals and plants living below the water's surface. When you are finished, paint over your picture with blue or green watercolors. The paint will stick to the blank paper, but will *resist* sticking to the colored animals.

- Send a picture of your creation to your teacher!

◆ (Check out the following pages for lessons for older students.)

Plant and Animal Life in Over and Under the Pond

As you listen to the book, make a list of plant and animal life found in a pond.

Plant Life

Animal Life

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Plant and Animal Life in On Duck Pond

As you listen to the book, make a list of plant and animal life found in a pond.

Plant Life

Animal Life

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Older Students:

A pond habitat is filled with interesting plants and animals. Listen to the books:

Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner

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

On Duck Pond by Jane Yolen

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C3jPFWsjqBg>

And read the article on freshwater ecosystems on National Geographic for Kids.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/habitats/freshwater/>

As you listen and read, note unusual plants and animals which make their homes in this ecosystem. Choose one animal to research further.

As you research this animal, look for information on the following:

- ◆ Where the animal lives
- ◆ Adaptations the animal has that helps it live in this ecosystem
- ◆ Impacts the animal makes on its ecosystem
- ◆ A note-taking sheet is on the next page.

Think of a creative way to share this information. Some ideas include:

- ⇒ Make a poster
- ⇒ Design a power point slide show
- ⇒ Paint a picture
- ⇒ Record yourself reading the information you have learned.

We would love to learn how you are doing! Send us pictures or comments at our email:
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Do you have books or topics you would like us to address? Send us ideas or requests at
darlene-and-terry@writenow-rightnow.com

T = Pond Animal —

<p>* Where the animal lives</p>	
<p>* Animal's adaptation to its home</p>	
<p>* Animal's impact on its home</p>	