



Pond Life

WEEK 1 LIFE AROUND THE POND

STEAM STATION	YOUR SUPPLIES	BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS	TEACHER TIPS
LESSON 1 Turtle Shells <small>MR 7 Logic & Reasoning PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Shells Blocks Towel or blanket	 	Set out shells and blocks along with a blue towel or blanket in the block area. Encourage children to create a pretend pond using the materials.
LESSON 2 Threading Snakes <small>MR 5 Patterns PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Pipecleaners Items with holes: beads, buttons, pasta, nuts, washers	 	Set out pipecleaners and a variety of items with holes. Encourage children to create a family of snakes.
LESSON 3 Swimming Tadpoles <small>SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry CA 4 Drama</small>	Cooked pasta Bowl or bin of water Rocks & sand (optional)	 	Place cooked pasta (e.g., penne pasta) in a clear bowl or bin of water. If desired, create a pond life with rocks and sand. Encourage children to pretend the pasta is a family of tadpoles in a pond.
LESSON 4 Sticky Tongues <small>SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science CA 4 Drama</small>	Paper scraps Nature items: grass, weeds, leaves, pebbles Different types of tape	 	Set out scraps of paper, small nature items and different types of tape. Encourage children to explore different ways to pick up the small pieces with the tape. Pretend to be frogs catching food.
LESSON 5 Duck Feathers <small>SCI 4 Technology SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry</small>	Feather outlines drawn on paper Scissors Tray Spray bottle of colored water Baby oil Crayons/markers	 	Set out all listed supplies and any other desired materials. Encourage children to cut out feathers and coat each one in a different material then spray with water to test waterproofing.

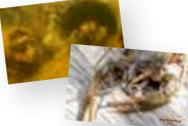
WEEK 2 POND PLANTS

LESSON 6 Baby Pool Pond <small>SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science CA 4 Drama</small>	Baby pool Pond animal figurines Nature items Crepe paper	 	Set out a baby pool and fill it with pond-related materials such as pond animal figurines, nature items and green crepe paper. Encourage children to set up a pond scene with the materials.
LESSON 7 Cattail Seeds <small>SCI 4 Technology SED 3 Attention & Persistence</small>	Cattails Magnifying glass or pocket microscope Tweezers	 	Set out a cattail, magnifying glass or pocket microscope and tweezers. Encourage children to explore the cattail then look for and separate some of its seeds.
LESSON 8 Lily Pad Drop <small>SCI 3 Physical Science PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Cups Bowls Paper bags Nature items	 	Set out a variety of different-sized cups and bowls on the ground. Give each child a paper bag and invite them to fill the bags with nature items or other small items, e.g. beans or pompoms. Then encourage children to find a "lily pad" (cup/bowl) and try to drop the items inside.
LESSON 9 Sink or Float? <small>SCI 3 Physical Science SED 3 Attention & Persistence</small>	Bin of water Various items that float/sink	 	Set out a large bin of water and various items from outside or indoors. Invite children to explore dropping items in the water to discover what floats and what sinks. Add more items as needed.
LESSON 10 Algae Sensory Bags <small>SCI 3 Physical Science LLD 7 Writing</small>	Hair gel Food coloring Clear zip bag Tape Paper	 	Squeeze hair gel and a few drops of green food coloring into a zip bag. Secure with tape and lay the gel bag on a piece of white sheet of paper. Encourage children to write or draw on the gel bag.

WEEK 3 POND INSECTS

STEAM STATION	YOUR SUPPLIES	BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS	TEACHER TIPS
LESSON 11 Insect Puzzles <small>MR 3 Shapes PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Pictures of dragonflies & pond insects Scissors Blocks Tape	 	Print photos of dragonflies and other pond insects. Cut the photos into block-sized pieces. Tape the pieces to blocks and set them in the block area. Invite children to assemble the 3D insect puzzles. Explore putting different blocks together to create new types of pond animals.
LESSON 12 Mosquito Bites <small>MR 7 Logic & Reasoning PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Playdough Water Toothpicks Straws	 	Set out playdough, water, toothpicks and straws. Invite children to explore pressing straws and toothpicks into the playdough to make "mosquito bites." Problem-solve how to use the straw to transfer water from the bowl onto the playdough.
LESSON 13 Measure the Ripple <small>SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry MR 7 Logic & Reasoning</small>	Bin of water Small items	 	Set out a bin of water and invite children to explore making ripples or splashes by dropping small items into it. Explain that water striders are attracted to food by sensing ripples made by their prey.
LESSON 14 Mayfly Wings <small>SCI 4 Technology CA 3 Visual Arts</small>	Wax paper Pencil Glue Tempera paint Cups Paintbrushes Lightbox or flashlight	 	Outline a wing shape on a piece of wax paper. Mix a very small amount of tempera paint into glue in cups. Invite children to use the glue mixture to paint the wing. When dry, peel the wing from the paper and explore how light shines through it using a light box, flashlight or window.
LESSON 15 Pond Life <small>SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Fabric Nature items Pond animal figurines Duck counters	 	Set out blue fabric on the floor. Set out nature items, pond animal figurines, duck counters and other pond-related items on the fabric. Encourage children to create a pond environment.

WEEK 4 LIFE IN THE POND

LESSON 16 Swirling Snail <small>SCI 3 Physical Science CA 3 Visual Arts</small>	Butcher paper Tape Plates of paint Spin tops	 	Lay butcher paper on a table and tape down the sides. Set out spin tops and plates with different-colored paints. Encourage children to create swirling snail shell designs.
LESSON 17 Digging Holes <small>SCI 4 Technology SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science</small>	Containers Tongs Bowl of rocks Water (optional)	 	Set out different open containers with sand. Place tongs and a bowl of rocks next to the containers. Encourage children to create crawfish habitats. Set out some water, if desired.
LESSON 18 Long Tails <small>MR 7 Logic & Reasoning CA 4 Drama</small>	Socks or tights Stuffing material	 	Set out long socks or tights and some stuffing material for creating long tails.
LESSON 19 Alligator Teeth <small>MR 7 Logic & Reasoning PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Poster board Marker Blocks	 	Draw a large alligator mouth without teeth on a piece of poster board. Set out blocks and invite children to add that many teeth to the alligator mouth. How many teeth can fill the mouth?
LESSON 20 Fishing at the Pond <small>MR 1 Number Sense CA 4 Drama</small>	Pipecleaners Bin of water Toy fishing pole	 	Set out a shallow bin of water and a toy fishing pole with a pipecleaner "fishhook" at the end of the string. Loop and twist the rest of the pipecleaners so that they resemble fish. Encourage children to use the toy fishing pole to catch the pipecleaner fish.

Set-Up Directions

These open-ended STEAM stations invite children to investigate, problem-solve and create.

- Hang the Big Question and Inspiration Photos on the wall next to the place you set up the investigation.
- Use the labels to identify and organize materials children will use (and clean up) as they explore STEAM stations.

ROTATING YOUR STATIONS

- Introduce one new STEAM station daily. Leave that station set up all week. By the end of the week, children will have five stations to explore.



STEAM stations integrate perfectly with the monthly Experience Preschool Curriculum kits for a comprehensive research-based early learning system. Learn more and start your research-based curriculum today.

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**Can you create
a pond?**



**What kind
of snake
will you make?**



**What does
a tadpole
look like?**



**How far do you
think a frog's
tongue can reach?**



**How do ducks
stay dry?**



**What will
you add to your
pool pond?**



What do cattail seeds look like?



Why do you think lily pads float?



**Why do some
items float
and others sink?**



**How do you
think algae feels?**



**What kind of
new pond animal
can you invent?**



**Why do you
think mosquitos
bite people?**



**How can you
make a ripple
in the water?**



**What will your
membranous insect
wing look like?**



**What kind
of foods do pond
animals eat?**



**Why do you
think snails
have shells?**



**What can you
use to dig a hole?**



**Why do you
think some animals
have tails?**



**How many teeth
do you think
an alligator has?**



**How many fish
can you catch
at the pond?**



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Shells



Blocks



Towels



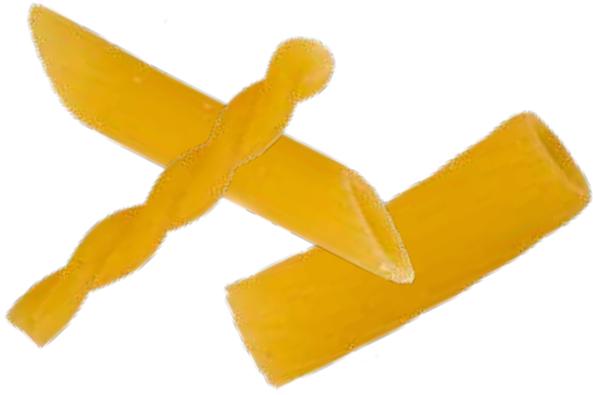
Blankets



Pipecleaners



Items with Holes



Pasta



Bowls



Bins



Water



Rocks



Sand



Paper



Nature Items



Tape



Scissors



Trays



Spray Bottles



Food Coloring



Baby Oil



Crayons



Markers



Baby Pool



Animal Figurines



Crepe Paper



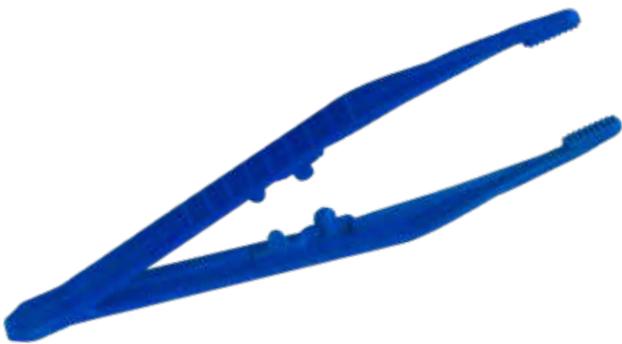
Cattails



Magnifying Glasses



Pocket Microscopes



Tweezers



Cups



Paper Bags



Items that float or sink



Hair Gel



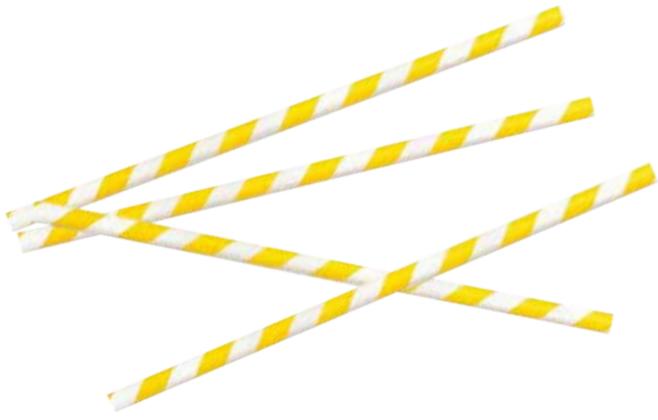
Clear Zip Bags



Playdough



Toothpicks



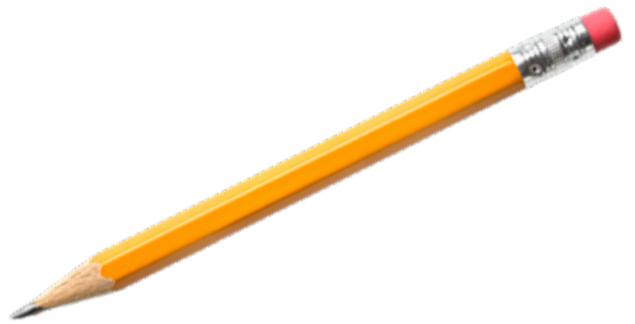
Straws



Small Items



Wax Paper



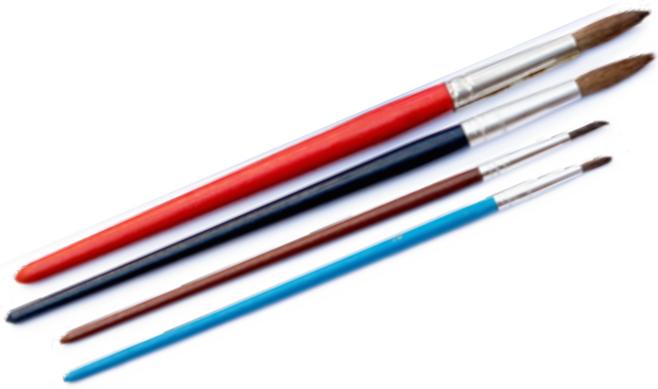
Pencils



Glue



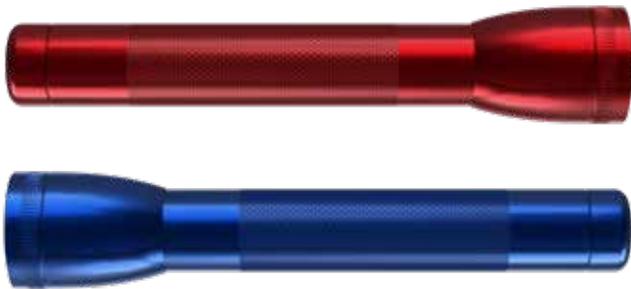
Paint



Paintbrushes



Lightbox



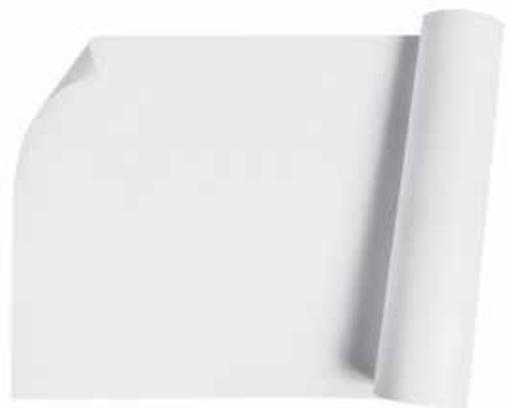
Flashlights



Fabric



Duck Counters



Butcher Paper



Plates



Tops



Containers



Tongs



Socks or Tights



Stuffing Materials



Poster Board



Toy Fishing Poles

