













Pond Life

WEEK 1 LIFE AROUND THE POND

STEAM STATION	YOUR SUPPLIES	BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS	TEACHER TIPS
LESSON 1 Turtle Pond <small>SED 4a Problem-Solving LLD 2a Communication</small>	Shells Blocks Towel or blanket	 	Set out shells, blocks and a blue blanket or towel in the block area. Encourage the children to create a pretend pond with the materials.
LESSON 2 Threading Snakes <small>M 5 Patterns PD 2 Fine Motor SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science</small>	Pipecleaners Items with holes: beads, buttons, pasta, nuts, washers	 	Set out pipecleaners and a variety of items with holes, such as beads, buttons, nuts or washers.
LESSON 3 Swimming Tadpoles <small>CA 4b Drama SCI 2a Investigation & Inquiry</small>	Yarn Ribbon Small foam shapes Clear bowl or tube with water Nature items: Rocks and sand Scissors	 	Place yarn pieces, ribbon strips or small foam shapes in a clear bowl or tube of water. Create a pond with rocks and sand. Encourage the children to pretend the pieces are tadpoles swimming.
LESSON 4 Sticky Tongues <small>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science CA 4a Drama</small>	Paper scraps Nature items: grass, weeds, leaves, pebbles Different types of tape	 	Set out scraps of paper, small nature items (e.g., grass, weeds, leaves and pebbles) and different types of tape. Encourage the 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 2a Natural & Earth Science SED 4a Problem-Solving</small>	Paper Scissors (child-safe) Tray Spray bottle of dyed water Baby oil Crayons/markers	 	Draw feather outlines on paper and set out scissors, baby oil and a spray bottle of dyed water. Invite the children to cut out the feathers, coat them with baby oil and spray them with water to test for waterproofing.

WEEK 2 POND PLANTS

LESSON 6 Classroom Pond <small>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science</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 the children to set up a pond scene with the materials.
LESSON 7 Cattail Seeds <small>SCI 4 Technology ATL 1a Attention & Persistence</small>	Cattails Magnifying glass or pocket microscope Tweezers	 	Set out a cattail, magnifying glass or pocket microscope and tweezers. Encourage the children to explore the cattail, then look for and separate some of its seeds.
LESSON 8 Lily Pad Drop <small>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science PD 1 Gross 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, such as pompoms. Then encourage the children to find a "lily pad" (cup/bowl) and try to drop the items inside.
LESSON 9 Floating Pond Plants <small>SCI 1a & SCI 1b Investigation & Inquiry</small>	Bin of water Toy animals Nature items: leaves, sticks, stones, bark	 	Set out a large bin of water, toy animals and natural items such as leaves, sticks, stones or bark. Invite the children to use the materials to build a floating "lily pad" or mat. Encourage them to arrange the materials, place their lily pad in the water to test it, adjust as needed and observe what happens.
LESSON 10 Algae Sensory Bags <small>SCI 3b Physical Science LLD 7a 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 the 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>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science M 2a Spatial Awareness</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 the children to assemble the insect puzzles. Explore putting different blocks together to create new types of pond animals.
LESSON 12 Mosquito Bites <small>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science SED 4a Problem-Solving PD 2 Fine Motor</small>	Playdough Water Toothpicks Straws		Set out playdough, water, toothpicks and straws. Invite the 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 Making Ripples <small>SCI 1a Investigation & Inquiry SCI 3b Physical Science SED 4a Problem-Solving</small>	Bin of water Small items		Set out a bin of water and invite the 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 SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science CA 3b 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 the 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 2a Natural & Earth Science M 6 Classification</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 the children to create a pond environment.

WEEK 4 LIFE IN THE POND

LESSON 16 Swirling Snail <small>PD 2 Fine Motor SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science CA 3b 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 the children to create swirling snail shell designs.
LESSON 17 Digging Holes <small>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science SCI 4 Technology</small>	Containers Sand 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 the children to create crawfish habitats. Set out some water, if desired.
LESSON 18 Long Tails <small>SCI 2a Natural & Earth Science SED 4a Problem-Solving</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>PD 4a & PD 4b Personal Care</small>	Poster board Marker Blocks		Draw a large alligator mouth without teeth on a piece of poster board. Set out blocks and invite the children to add that many teeth to the alligator mouth. How many teeth can fill the mouth?
LESSON 20 Fishing at the Pond <small>LLD 2a Communication CA 4a Drama</small>	Laundry baskets or cardboard boxes Toy fishing pole or sticks with string tied to the end		Set out laundry baskets or large open boxes. Put out play fishing poles or sticks with strings tied onto the ends. Encourage the children to pretend they are fishing on a pond.

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.

[ExperienceCurriculum.com](https://www.ExperienceCurriculum.com)





**How 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
the pool pond?**



**What do cattail
seeds look like?**



**Why do
you think
lily pads float?**



**What do you
notice about
the things that
float or sink?**




**How do you
think algae feels?**




**What kind of
new pond insect
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 do you
know when your
fishing pole has
a fish on it?**



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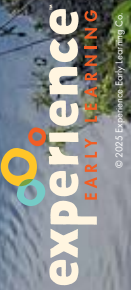



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