Pond dipping KS1

Session Overview and Learning objectives

Please note if this session is self-led it will only be possible if a trained Suffolk Wildlife Trust volunteer is available. Alternatively, your second-choice session will replace pond dipping.

Low water levels will prevent pond dipping; in this case, a suitable alternative session will be provided.

Session Summary

- This session is suitable for up to 30 pupils
- The session will last up to 60 minutes
- Required ratio: 1 adult : 6 pupils

An exciting way to investigate habitats and life cycles, learn about classification and how to closely observe animals. Pupils will learn how to identify aquatic invertebrates that they may be unfamiliar with. All equipment required, including pond nets, white trays, viewers and identification sheets, will be provided.

Links to pre-recorded microscope sessions can be found on our website suffolkwildlifetrust.org and watched prior to, or after your visit enabling pupils to extend their learning about the fascinating animals they have encountered at the pond.

Please bring protective gloves for pupils and adults with fresh cuts and eczema.

Session Outline

Time	Location	Activity
5 minutes	Learning Centre	Walk to pond and gather equipment
5 minutes	Fen pool	Introduction to equipment
30 minutes	Fen pool	Pond dipping and identification of finds
5 minutes	Fen pool	Dragonfly lifecycle game
5 minutes	Fen pool	Return animals to the pond and clean trays and equipment
5 minutes	Learning Centre	Wash hands

Learning Objectives

All will understand how to work safely around water

All will experience the diversity of life in a pond habitat

All will be able to identify and name animals using an identification sheet

All will be familiar with the lifecycle of a dragonfly

A few will be able to recognise some species that are carnivores

Curriculum Extracts

The following bullet points are extracts from the National Curriculum

KS1

Working scientifically

Pupils should be taught to use the following practical scientific methods, processes and skills:

- Observing closely, using simple equipment
- Identifying and classifying

Animals, including humans

Pupils should be taught to:

- identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals
- identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores
- describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals including pets)
- notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults.

Living things and their habitats

Pupils should be taught to:

- explore and compare the differences between things that are living, dead, and things that have never been alive
- identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other
- identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats
- describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food