

# Life in a Pond

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*Grade Levels: PreK–2*

## **Program Description:**

A pond is much more than frogs and fish! It demonstrates a beautiful web of life from algae and microscopic organisms to insect larvae and amphibians. We will use our limnology lab to practice techniques for observing small aquatic creatures and learning about their unique life cycles and adaptations. At the pond, we will collect and observe several varieties of invertebrates that depend on this habitat.

## **Massachusetts Curriculum Standards:**

### **Pre-K: Earth and Space Sciences**

#### **ESS2. Earth's Systems**

PreK-ESS2-1(MA). Raise questions and engage in discussions about how different types of local environments (including water) provide homes for different kinds of living things.

PreK-ESS2-3(MA). Explore and describe different places water is found in the local environment.

### **Pre-K: Life Science**

#### **LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes**

PreK-LS1-1(MA). Compare, using descriptions and drawings, the external body parts of animals (including humans) and plants and explain functions of some of the observable body parts.

PreK-LS1-3(MA). Use their five senses in their exploration and play to gather information.

#### **LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics**

PreK-LS2-2(MA). Using evidence from the local environment, explain how familiar plants and animals meet their needs where they live.

#### **LS3. Variation of Traits**

PreK-LS3-1(MA). Use observations to explain that young plants and animals are like but not exactly like their parents.

### **Kindergarten: Life Science**

#### **LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes**

K-LS1-1. Observe and communicate that animals (including humans) and plants need food, water, and air to survive. Animals get food from plants or other animals. Plants make their own food and need light to live and grow.

K-LS1-2(MA). Recognize that all plants and animals grow and change over time.



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## **Grade 1: Life Science**

### **LS1. From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes**

1-LS1-1. Use evidence to explain that (a) different animals use their body parts and senses in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water, and air, and (b) plants have roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits that are used to take in water, air, and other nutrients, and produce food for the plant.

### **LS3. Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits**

1-LS3-1. Use information from observations (first-hand and from media) to identify similarities and differences among individual plants or animals of the same kind.

## **Grade 2: Life Science**

### **LS2. Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics**

2-LS2-3(MA). Develop and use models to compare how plants and animals depend on their surroundings and other living things to meet their needs in the places they live.

### **LS4. Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity**

2-LS4-1. Use texts, media, or local environments to observe and compare (a) different kinds of living things in an area, and (b) differences in the kinds of living things living in different types of areas.



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