

Session title	Pond Explorers	
Key Q	Various available (see session description below)	
Session description	With purpose-built raised ponds and specialist equipment, including electronic microscope and screen, WWT Castle Espie is one of the very best places in the country to come pond dipping. Sessions can be adapted to suit your needs, with a focus on one or more of the following key questions: ▪ How can we group and classify pond animals? ▪ How are pond animals adapted to their habitat? ▪ How is energy passed down a pond food chain? ▪ How can we describe the life cycles of pond animals?	
Key Stage suitability	KS2	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS2: The World Around Us Independence: ▪ How living things rely on each other within the natural world ▪ The effect of people on the natural and built environment over time Place: ▪ Ways in which people, plants and animals depend on the features and materials in places and how they adapt to their environment ▪ Features of, and variations in places, including physical, human, climatic, vegetation and animal life ▪ Change over time in places Movement and energy: ▪ Causes that affect the movement of people and animals. Change over time: ▪ How change is a feature of the human and natural world and may have consequences for our lives and the world around us ▪ The effects of positive and negative changes globally and how we contribute to some of these changes	
Learning outcomes	Most learners	More able learners
	Will be able to name at least two species of animal that live in a freshwater pond. Will be able to use pond dipping equipment safely and effectively.	Will be able to describe the movements and shape of at least one pond animal. Will be able to explain the differences and similarities between the creatures they caught.
Key vocabulary	Ecosystem Habitat Eutrophic Biodiversity Aquatic species Wetland	

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	10 mins
Learners are given an introduction to pond dipping.	
Activity 1: Pond Dipping	10 mins
Learners dip into ponds using the equipment provided.	

Activity 2: ID catch	20 mins
Learners use the ID booklets and magnifying glasses to identify at least three species.	
Activity 3: A closer study	15 mins
Learners decide upon and remove a species of their choice using a magnifying pot. Their chosen species is put into a large tank and its image magnified on to a TV screen. Learners use white boards to take notes on their chosen subject.	
Plenary	5 mins
Leader captures data from white boards and facilitator asks learners about their choice of species.	