

Session title	Pond Explorers	
Key question	What lives in a pond?	
Session description	With purpose-built raised ponds and specialist equipment, WWT Martin Mere 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: ▪ Identifying common pond animals. ▪ Food chains (to including the terms carnivore, herbivore and omnivore) ▪ Habitats	
Key Stage	KS1	
Duration	30 minutes	

Curriculum links	Year 1 Science - Animals including humans ▪ Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. ▪ Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. ▪ Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. ▪ Identify and name a variety of common animals that are herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. Year 2 Science – Living things in their habitats ▪ 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 food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.		
Learning outcomes	Most learners...	More able learners...	
	Will be able to use pond dipping equipment safely and effectively to catch animals with minimal disturbance to the habitat. Will understand that a pond is a suitable habitat for lots of different animals. Will be able to recognise and identify an animal that lives in a pond habitat. Will understand that pond animals have different 'diets'	Will be able to recall the name and diet of at least one pond animal. Will be able to describe the similarities and differences between pond animals. Will be able to think about some of the animals we might find living in a pond habitat and how they survive. .	
Key vocabulary	Habitat (home) Freshwater Pond dipping	Hopping Swimming Crawling	Slithering Wiggling Fins

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	2 mins
Learners are given a brief intro to WWT Martin Mere and are introduced to the key question: What lives in a pond?	
Activity 1: Demonstration	5 mins

Learners are shown how to pond dip safely without harming the creatures or themselves.	
Activity 2: Pond dipping	13 mins
Learners use their nets and trays to dip for creatures in the ponds.	
Activity 3: Game	7 mins
Y1 - Learners play the Herbivore, Carnivore, Omnivore sorting game, in which they are each a pond creature with its food and they have to go to an adult holding a card showing herbivore, carnivore or omnivore (whichever applies to their creature). Y2 - Learners complete the Food Chain headbands activity in small groups, in which each child wears a headband depicting a member of a pond food chain. They have to sort themselves into the correct order.	
Plenary	3 mins
Learners share what they have discovered about what lives in a pond and what pond animals eat.	