

Session title	Pond Explorers (available April – October)	
Key Q	What lives in a pond?	
Session description	With purpose-built raised ponds and specialist equipment, including electronic microscope and screen, WWT Slimbridge 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 ▪ Adaptations ▪ Food chains (to include the terms carnivore, herbivore and omnivore) ▪ Habitats	
Key Stage Suitability	Early Years	
Duration	45 minutes	

Curriculum links	EYFS: Understanding the world 3- and 4-year-olds will be learning to... ▪ 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. Children in reception will be learning to... ▪ Explore the natural world around them. ▪ Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. ▪ Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live.	
Learning outcomes	Most learners will...	More able learners will...
	▪ be able to identify an animal that lives in a pond. ▪ be able to use pond dipping equipment safely and effectively to catch pond creatures. ▪ understand that a freshwater pond is home to lots of different animals.	▪ be able to identify where their catch came from in the pond. ▪ be able to describe, using scientific vocabulary, how their catch is adapted to living in a pond.
Key vocabulary	Home/Habitat Plants Similar/Different	Animals Survival Adaptations Carnivore Herbivore Omnivore

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question – What lives in a pond?	
Activity 1: Introduction to pond creatures	5 mins
Learners are introduced to different creatures and where they can be found within the pond habitat.	
Activity 2: Where to and how to pond dip, health and safety	5 mins

Learners are given hints and tips on where and how to pond dip plus how to do it safely.	
Activity 3: Pond dipping	20 mins
Learners investigate the pond habitat by dipping with their nets then identify the creatures they catch using WWT ID guides.	
Activity 4: Microscope and discussion session	5 mins
Learners observe and comment on creatures as viewed close up using a microscope and screen.	
Plenary	5 mins
Learners vote for their 'find of the day'.	