

Session title	Pond Explorers	
Key Q	How are organisms interdependent within a pond ecosystem?	
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. In this session, students explore the interdependence of living things, including how organisms are linked through food webs.	
Key Stage suitability	KS3	
Duration	1.5 hours	

Curriculum links	KS3: Science and Technology: Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigate the effects of pollution, for example, water, air, land, sound etc. and specific measures to improve and protect the environment, for example, renewable energy, efficient use of resources, waste minimisation, etc. ▪ Explore the importance of biodiversity, how it impacts on our lives and how it is affected by human activity ▪ Investigate what can be done to conserve and promote biodiversity 		
Learning outcomes	All learners	More able learners	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. ▪ Will be able to explain how some of these creatures live in the pond environment. 	
Key vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecosystem ▪ Habitat ▪ Wetland ▪ Eutrophic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biodiversity ▪ Aquatic species ▪ The nomenclature of said species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Adaptation

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	15 mins
Learners are given an introduction to pond dipping using aqua scopes and flash cards.	
Activity 1: Session title and enquiry prompt.	10 mins
Using the cartoon picture, leader explains the session and asks pupils for ideas on adaptation.	
Activity 2: Pond Dipping	15 mins
Learners begin to dip into ponds using equipment provided.	
Activity 3: Identification of catch.	15 mins
Learners, with the support of adults, use the ID booklets and magnifying glasses to identify at least three species.	
Activity 4: 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	10 mins
Teacher captures data from white boards and facilitator asks pupils about their choice of species.	