

FOND OF PONDS

Dear Teachers,

When the Metroparks Mobile Learning Center visits your school, your students will have fun learning about all sorts of animals who live in the pond. Below is an outline of the activities your students will be engaged in during the “We’re Fond of Ponds” program. Pre-visit activities are provided to prepare your students for the information we will cover.

School-visit Program Outline:

- Read book: In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming
- Mosquito song
- Sing amphibian song
- Puppet show
- Dragonfly life cycle pretend
- Discuss turtle shells
- Beaver dress up
- Frog life cycle pretend
- Pretend to be a turtle hunting for fish
- Mosquito life cycle pretend
- Meet live frog, toad, and salamander
- Meet live painted turtle

Songs:

Mosquito Song (to the tune of Mary Had a Little Lamb)

Mosquitoes like it wet and damp, wet and damp, wet and damp.
Mosquitoes like it wet and damp, they hang out where you camp.

Mosquitoes fly around in swarms, around in swarms, around in swarms,
Mosquitoes fly around in swarms, they have wings for their arms.

Mosquitoes bite your arms and face, arms and face, arms and face.
Mosquitoes bite your arms and face, they like the way you taste.

Amphibian Song

Frogs and Toads and Salamanders
Frogs and Toads and Salamanders
Frogs and Toads and Salamanders
Are amphibians, cha, cha, cha

Craft:

Instructions: Ask students to all work together and draw a pond scene. Have a pond already drawn on a poster or white board and have each student draw an animal they think they might find there.

“What Am I?”

Instructions: This game is meant to get children thinking about the kinds of animals we will discuss during the program. It also might introduce animals to the students that they are not very familiar with, but that are central to the lesson we will be giving. If possible, print out the images beforehand or display them on a projector so the children can have options to point to if they do not know the name of the animal.

Salamander clues: I look a lot like a lizard but am an amphibian. I have a very long tail and four legs. I spend a lot of my free time in hiding in wet dirt. What am I?

Frog clues: I am an amphibian that comes in all different colors. My hobbies include hopping around and sticking my tongue out as far as I can. People think that all I say is “ribbit, ribbit” but I can make other noises too! What am I?

Turtle clues: I am reptile known for moving very slowly, but sometimes I can actually be quick, like when I’m in the water. I love to lay out in the sun on logs in my pond. I have a hard shell that I hide in when I am scared. What am I?

Beaver clues: I am a mammal with really big teeth and a flat tail. I like to build my lodges in ponds with trees that I cut down. Sometimes I’ll build these homes in rivers and they are called dams. What am I?

Mosquito clues: I am an insect with very long legs and I can fly. I sometimes bite people and then they get really itchy. I love to hang out near ponds where it is nice and wet. What am I?

