

CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND RESOURCES REVIEW

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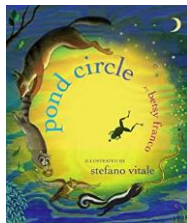
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Life in a Pond

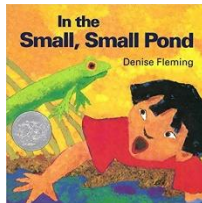
Ponds are a great place to explore with young ones. So much life happens in a pond—microorganisms, macroinvertebrates, algae, plants, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds. Explore ponds with these great read aloud books and additional resources.

Pond Circle by Betsy Franco



In this circular story, move from the pond to algae, nymph to diving beetle, frog to snake, skunk to owl, raccoon to owl's eggs, a coyote stalking the raccoon, and finally a girl in the nearby house hearing the coyote. The story shows a food chain around a pond with additional non-fiction information about the animals and algae in and around the pond at the end.

In the Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming



A simple story of a child exploring a pond uses rhyming and sound words like splash, kerplow, waddle, jiggle, and wiggle to bring a pond to life. See the pond through the frog's eyes and the animals it encounters. The bright colors of the pulp painting bring the reader into the world of the pond in this Caldecott Honor Book.

Over and Under the Pond by Kate Messner



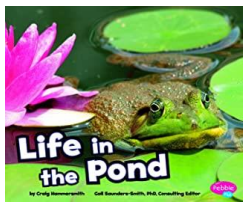
A mother and son in a boat on the pond wonder what is under the pond. The text alternates between what is found over the pond (rushes, whirligig beetles, painted turtle, moose, etc.) and what can be found under the water (minnows, brook trout, caddisfly, beaver, etc.). This book is full insects, amphibians, fish, mammals, reptiles, and birds that can be found in and around a pond. I loved the perspectives of illustrations from the bottom of the pond looking up at the bottom of the swimming animals and boat through the water as well as from the tops of the trees looking down. Nonfiction information at the end of the book looks at the importance of a pond as an ecosystem, as well as information about the highlighted animals in the story.

Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs by Anthony D. Fredericks



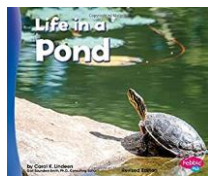
Frog introduces this circular tale with a letter to friends sharing more information on the animals. The rhyming book has lovely illustrations with varying perspectives from up above, eye level peeking through and under the water. The Field Notes at the end give additional information on each of the animals and cattails found in the pond and book.

Life in a Pond by Craig Hammersmith



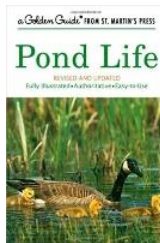
This nonfiction book with table of contents, glossary, and index takes a simple look at major types of animals in a pond—insects, frogs, mudpuppies, birds, turtles, fish, and beavers. There are great photos of the animals in each spread with 3-4 sentences of informational text alongside. Fun facts are included in the back. This is an okay introduction to pond animals but seems like it could consistently be more or less specific, either using generic groups for all the groups of animals or a species from each group. However, the more general approach allows adaptation for specific animals in your area.

Life in a Pond by Carol K. Lindeen



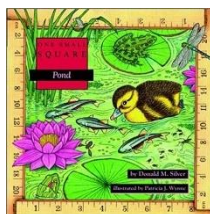
This is another nonfiction book with table of contents, glossary, and index. While animals are one section of this book, it focuses more on what a pond is, plants that grow there, and how all the plants and animals are needed for the pond to work as a habitat. The book has 2-4 sentences per 2 page spread with large photos taking up 2/3 of each spread.

Pond Life by George K. Reid



This Golden Guide field guide is the perfect size for little hands. The guide starts with general information on ponds and lakes, water, habitats, food webs, plants, animals, and more information. It has a little of everything with algae, aquatic plants, shore plants, trees, insects, shells, fish, birds, reptiles, mammals, and amphibians. While the reading level is higher, the drawings help see an overview of pond life.

Pond (One Small Square Series) by Donald Silver



Geared for ages 6 and above, look at how much life is in a small square of pond even down to a drop of pond water. This informative text offers ways to explore a pond as well as gives detailed illustrations of the animals and organisms that can be found in a pond. The book includes a field guide, index, glossary, and resource list.

Additional Resources:

How to Go Pond Dipping—Use simple tools to explore macroinvertebrates in a pond.

<http://www.metrofieldguide.com/how-to-go-pond-dipping/>

What Floats Your Boat—Be inspired by Curious George and experiment using newspaper to make and float a boat on a pond.

<https://tinkergarten.com/activities/what-floats-your-boat>

Pond Video Playlist—YouTube playlist centered around organisms found in a pond

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLRaq2fWj05NPToikL_eCRssDzfSAyM_V

Observing Pond Water--Pond versus sink water explorations and observations

<https://www.pre-kpages.com/science-kids-observing-pond-water/>

If you have ideas or would like to contribute book or resource reviews, please contact Dr. Gull at Carla.Gull@phoenix.edu.