

Program Summary

Hidden beneath the surface of VanDusen's ponds, lakes and streams is a diverse world of beautiful and strange life. Students explore and learn about the pond environment, use nets to dip into a pond and identify the creatures they find.

Learning Objectives

Students will:

1. Observe the various water bodies at VanDusen, looking for signs of plants and animals that live in the area
 2. Observe the wildlife in action
 3. Investigate the different pond regions (edges, bottom, water column, water surface) searching for living things
 4. Collect aquatic invertebrates, observe and identify
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Curriculum Connections

Grade 1

BIG IDEAS

- Living things have features and behaviors that help them survive in their environment

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Make and record observations
- Compare observations with predictions through discussion
- Transfer and apply learning to new situations

CONTENT

- Classification of living and non-living things
- Names of local plants and animals
- Structural features of living things in the local environment
- Behavioral adaptations of animals in the local environment

Grade 2

BIG IDEAS

- Living things have life cycles adapted to their environment

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world
- Make simple predictions about familiar objects and events
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Compare observations with predictions through discussion
- Transfer and apply learning to new situations

CONTENT

- Metamorphic and non-metamorphic life cycles of different organisms
 - Similarities and differences between offspring and parent
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Grade 3

BIG IDEAS

- Living things are diverse, can be grouped, and interact in their ecosystems

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrate curiosity about the natural world
- Make predictions based on prior knowledge
- Make observations about living and non-living things in the local environment
- Experience and interpret the local environment

CONTENT

- Biodiversity in the local environment
 - Energy is needed for life
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Grade 4

BIG IDEAS

- All living things sense and respond to their environment

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES

- Demonstrate curiosity about the natural world
- Make predictions based on prior knowledge
- Make observations about living and non-living things in the local environment
- Experience and interpret the local environment
- Transfer and apply learning to new situations

CONTENT

- Animals and plants have different ways of sensing and responding to their environment