



Severn Valley Country Park



Shropshire's
**GREAT
OUTDOORS**

Educational Activities for Kids at Severn Valley Country Park

Pond Dipping

Pond dipping is a great method of sampling the rich diversity of life within a pond habitat and one of our popular educational activities for kids. Children of all ages and abilities can investigate different habitats and discover the different creatures that live within them. This can help with identification and recording skills, as well as understanding the relationships between creatures living in the same habitat. Ponds are an excellent place to study food chains, species distribution, the water cycle and the effects of pollution.



Duration Up to 1.5 hours

Equipment

Each child will need: suitable clothing and footwear.

We will provide any other equipment such as dipping nets, collection trays, bug viewers, identification and recording sheets.

Time of year

March to October

Contact

Severn Valley Country Park, Chapel Lane,
Alveley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, WV15 6NG

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Activity Content

Please note that the following pages give a general description of this activity and its links to the curriculum. We reserve the right to make modifications to the content to reflect weather conditions and safety requirements.

We will be very happy to modify and amend the activity contents to enable your children or school to meet specific objectives if required.

More details of this activity are on the following page

Activity breakdown and links to National Curriculum

Activity	Curriculum
Housekeeping, hygiene, toilets, food, drink, First Aid, etc. Location and maps	English: speaking and listening Maths: Applying mathematics Geography: recognise and observe at local scale
Welcome children & ask if they have been dipping before. Ask what they expect to find in the pond	Science: organisms and their behaviour
Walk from centre to pond. (When the wildflowers are in bloom, we will stop on the way and talk to the children about the flowers. When the flowers aren't in bloom, we will take the children directly to the pond)	English: speaking and listening Geography: recognise and observe at a local scale
Health and safety talk on arrival at the pond. Water safety, helping each other, sharing equipment and information.	English: speaking and listening Science: how science works
Demonstration on how to use the nets safely and effectively	English: speaking and listening
Children work in pairs – taking turn to use the net dipping in different areas and collecting a variety of specimens.	Science: organisms and their behaviour, name and describe features of plants and animals
The children are provided with specimen trays, magnifying pots, identification sheets and recording sheets.	Science: organisms and their behaviour, name and describe features of plants and animals
Explain about the safe handling of specimens that have been captured. Eliciting answers about the potential impact of humans on the creatures.	Science: how science works
As the children dip, response to their questions, help identify the pond life & look in grass near pond for other wildlife i.e. frogs, beetles etc., to show children what lives by the pond.	Science: name and describe features of plants and animals
Explain how each of the creature cohabit the environment and the relationship and dependencies of each other. Explain lifecycle as appropriate. Explain how the creatures they find fit into the food-chain, and discuss the impact of changes.	Science: organisms and their behaviour Science: name and describe features of plants and animals
Bring all the specimen trays together so children can see what each other has caught. Ensure that everyone sees the variety of species that have been captured.	Science: name and describe features of plants and animals Maths: Applying mathematics, number and algebra
Count and record how many of each species have been captured. How do the numbers relate to each? Which are the most prevalent species and which are the least. Can we work out why?	Maths: Applying mathematics, number and algebra Science: name and describe features of plants and animals
At end, ask children to empty specimen trays, nets and magnifying pots back into the pond to make sure all the creatures get back into the water and explain why.	English: speaking and listening
Before leaving the pond, let children know they will need to wash their hands on return to the centre and explain why.	English: speaking and listening
Return to Visitor Centre	

See our [Teachers Guide](#) for more detailed information on curriculum