



TOPICS

Environments, Ecology

MATERIALS LIST

- Matte board—5 pieces
- Acrylic Paints & brushes (optional)
- Construction Paper
- Pictures of pond animals/plants
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Glue/Tape
- Tissue paper
- Chenille Stems
- Yarn/Thread

STANDARDS

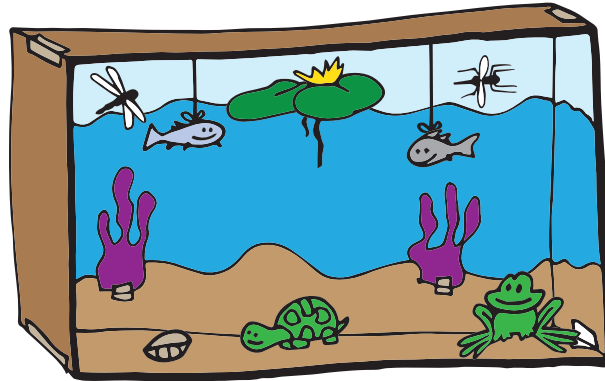
Next Generation Science Standards:

- Modeling relationships between plants and animals (Grade K, Earth and Space Science 3-1, Grade 3, Life Science 2-1)
- Observations of habitats (Grade K Life Science 1-1, Grade 2, Life Science 4-1)

Inspired by Coral Clark (RAFT)

POND IN A BOX

A Pond Diorama



Ponds have an entire world of aquatic life and provide a home to thousands of species. Life on Earth depends on healthy ecosystems and learning about the variety of animals and plants that coexist in ponds can help students appreciate how complex life can be in what seems like a small environment.

TO DO AND NOTICE

1. Join together five pieces of matte board (preferably blue) using tape or glued paper strips to make an open front box.
2. Decorate the inside of box to get the underwater look. Use blue acrylic paint for top and sides or line it with blue construction paper. Use brown/tan colored paper for the bottom (pond floor).
3. Choose pictures of fish and other pond inhabitants or use construction paper to draw your own. Cut out the shapes, color, and decorate with crayons or markers.
4. For aquatic plants – use green construction paper cut out in squiggly strips. Green and brown chenille stems also make nice plants.
5. Decorate the diorama using thread and glue or tape to dangle the fish and insects from the top of the box.
6. Glue or tape plants, mollusks, and bottom-dwelling animals to bottom of box, and land-dwelling animals (frogs, turtles, beavers) on the banks of the pond.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE ACTIVITY

Pond ecosystems are home to the smallest algae to large reptiles and mammals. Types of plants vary with distance to the pond shore. Ponds usually have a muddy bottom and quiet surface water. Because pond water does not bubble and splash over rocks and other objects, oxygen levels are fairly low. Aquatic creatures living in a pond are well suited to low oxygen.

POND IN A BOX *Continued*

TAKING IT FURTHER

- Students can create dioramas depicting different zones of the pond: littoral, limnetic, benthic.
- Students can discuss about: "Adaptations to aquatic life," or "How fish differ from frogs, turtles and pond mammals"
- Spark student imaginations: "If I were in this pond (diorama) what would I see?"
- Distribute cutouts of different pond creatures and let students discuss distinguishing features that classify them into specific categories e.g. arthropods, reptiles, amphibians, mollusks, mammals, etc.

WEB RESOURCES:

Enchanted Learning has a large selection of printables to use in the diorama or as an extension activity: www.enchantedlearning.com/biomes/pond/pondlife.shtml



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