

## Pond Life Mural Activity

### Post-Trip Teacher Guide

**Objective:** Create a mural to model the variety of life in a pond. A large class mural will have the greatest impact, but you may modify the activity and have small groups or individual students create smaller pictures.

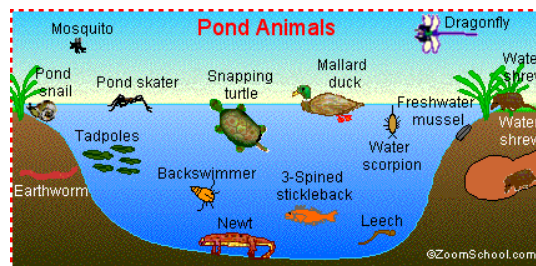
#### Procedure:

Make a class list of as many pond animals as possible. (See ABNC's Pond Animal Data Sheet for ideas.) Include animals that live in the water, at the bottom of the pond, on top of the water, and along the pond edges. Have each student select one or two animals that he or she would like to make for the mural.

Have students use construction paper and other art supplies to create pond animals. The macroinvertebrate cards from the pre-trip activity may be used for creating macroinvertebrates. Also, have students make labels for their animals. Labels should include the animals' names and might also describe the animals' roles in the ecosystem, such as consumer, predator, or prey.

Create the pond from blue and brown paper (or paint colors on butcher paper). Create plants and soil to place around the edges of the pond. (You may do this as a class or assign a few students this task.)

Fill the pond with animals. Have students place their creatures (and labels) in their appropriate places. For example, dragonfly nymphs should be at the bottom of the pond and water striders should be skating on top of the water.



Example pond from ZoomSchool.com

View and discuss the pond mural. Have each student describe what his or her animal is and what it might be doing in the pond. Ask questions like these: How is this "model" similar to a real pond? How is it different? How might it help others learn about a pond? What did students learn from visiting an actual pond that they wouldn't be able to learn from a model like this?

You may choose to incorporate extension activities like these into your project:

- Have students research the pond animals they create. They can post mini-reports on the mural and/or present their facts to the class.
- Draw arrows on your mural to represent food chains and/or webs.
- Research pond plants and add them to your mural.

