White Hall — Pond Dipping

Brief Description

Pond dipping is an excellent activity for a team to work calmly together, and to learn about how we can use indicator species to help us assess the quality of an environment. Individuals will learn how to use an ID Key to identify species that they have collected and there will be discussions about how these species fit into the wider ecosystem.

PSHE and Wider Learning Outcomes

- Working as a member of a team
- Personal safety
- Gathering and using data

Session Objectives

By the end of the session, students will

- Understand key aspects of water safety
- Be able to undertake basic identification of species, using an identification key
- Have discussed environmental factors that affect aquatic life
- Have a greater understanding of aquatic ecosystems

National Curriculum Outcomes

Science: recording data and results of increasing complexity using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, scatter graphs, bar and line graphs

Science: describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird

Art and design: to create sketch books to record their observations and use them to review and revisit ideas

Progression / Differentiation

There are different roles available in the pond dipping team, so roles could be allocated according to individual strengths.

There is the chance that a species may be encountered that we do not have an ID key for, so there is the opportunity to do some further research from books or online.

The session can be adapted to be an environmental art based session, or one with stronger scientific outcomes.

Vocabulary

Identification key, species, larvae, environment, life-stage, aquatic, amphibian, water quality, variation, net, pooter, tray, magnifying glass, indicator species.