

Task Cards

Set 7 - Ponding

Nature Study Australia



www.naturestudyaustralia.com.au

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Task Card #1— Make a Net

Materials and Tools:

Thin wire

Stapler

Empty orange/mandarin fruit bag

Method:

Cut a line down the side of the bag. Open the bag and lie it flat.

Make a circle out of the wire.

Fold the edge of the mesh bag over the wire and staple it on. As you go around gently gather the mesh and continue to staple it over the wire until the whole edge of the bag is secured.

Make a handle by attaching a piece of wire to one side and looping it over to the other side.

Have fun seeing what you can find in a pond, lake or dam.



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Task Card #2— Make a scoop

Materials and Tools:

Empty plastic jar (a peanut butter jar works well)

Thin wire

Method:

Clean your jar with hot water and remove the label.

Use the wire to make a handle on your jar.

Use the jar to scoop up water from the pond, lake or dam.

This scoop is great for catching tadpoles.



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Task Card #3— Tadpoles

Materials and Tools:

Books on the life cycle of a frog.

A scoop and jar for observing your tadpoles.

Method:

Take some time to research a frog's life-cycle.

Go on a tadpole hunt.

If you find tadpoles, take them home in your jar and observe them. Or observe them where they are found. Do any have legs yet? Write your observations in your nature journal.

Return your tadpoles back to where you found them. Check again in a few weeks. What did you observe?

Check your State's Law regarding tadpole collection and release.



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Task Card #4— Frogs

Materials and Tools:

A field guide for frogs in your area.

Something to record sounds (phone or ipad).

Method:

Go to a local pond, lake or dam and sit quietly, observing and listening. This is best done early morning or late afternoon.

Can you hear any frogs?

Record any frog sounds. When you return home, see if you can identify which frog the sounds belong to.

Try and creep up on the sound. Can you find the frog?



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Task Card #5— Dragonflies

Materials and Tools:

Research Dragonflies and Damselflies.

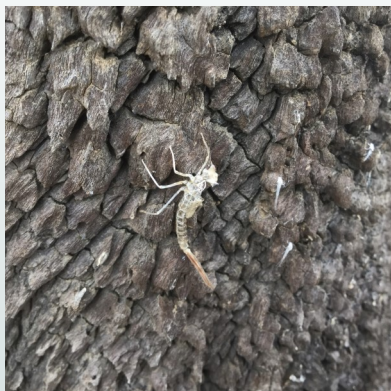
Method:

Learn how to tell the difference between Dragonflies and Damselflies.

Learn also about their life cycle.

When you go down to the pond, lake or dam, see if you can find any immature nymphs in the water.

Watch for dragonflies and damselflies hovering near the water and over the land close to the water. When they come to rest, notice how they hold their wings. Can you tell the difference between the Dragonfly and Damselfly?



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Task Card #6— Hunt for Nymph Cases

Materials and Tools:

A magnifying glass.

A container to collect the Nymph cases.

Method:

When a nymph is ready to become an adult dragonfly, it will crawl out of the water, attach to a stem, tree trunk or reed.

When it has hatched, it will wait for its wings to dry before flying off.

Look closely at trees, stems or reeds close to the water's edge to find their discarded nymph cases.

You might like to take one home to look at it closely. Draw what you see in your nature journal.



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Task Card #7—Identify Native Species

Materials and Tools:

Field guides for your area.

Camera

Nature journal

Method:

Take time to record the flora and fauna of your local pond or lake.

Record the different plants and animals you find in your nature journal and/or send photos to QuestaGame or iNaturalist.

Take note of the plants growing in or near the water.

Search for insects, amphibians, fish and reptiles.

Take note of the different types of water birds.



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Task Card #8— Watch for Water Birds

Materials and Tools:

Bird Field Guide

Drawing or Painting Materials

Internet research

Poster Card Board

Method:

Observe the birds that live on and around the pond, lake or dam.

Learn more about them by looking at the field guide or researching them on the internet.

Find out what they like to eat.

Why do they live near the water.

Make a food chain, showing the food that they need to eat to survive. You can find an infographic for wetlands [HERE](#).