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4-Part SERIES

DIRT:
Nature's Sandbox

TREES:
Nature's Coolers

PONDS:
Nature's Aquarium

CLOUDS:
Nature's Sprinklers



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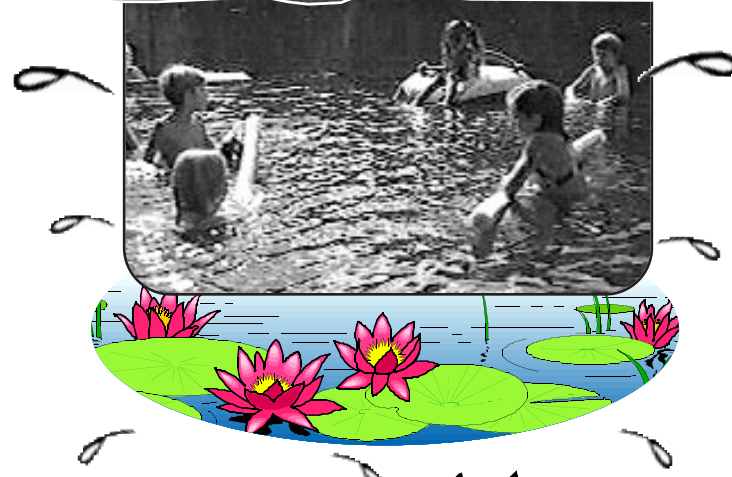
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Presents

PONDS

NATURE'S AQUARIUM



Naturally Nature

4-Part Series for **kids**

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE

INTRODUCTION TO SERIES

Naturally Nature is a fascinating 4-part series for young children carefully crafted to bridge the gap between a child's play and introductory science. By focusing upon the setting where children play and then gradually highlighting the underlying natural science, this introductory series completes an important next step in a child's introduction to social studies and science.

As a complementary device with each video, an instructional guide suggests exercises to help teachers, parents and students. These interactive exercises will reinforce and further develop a child's level of comprehension about the importance of nature and the joy of learning science.

The instructional guide provides:

Child-friendly **exercises!** ✓

Fun-to-do **follow-up activities!** ✓

Easy-to-learn **reinforcement lessons!** ✓

Permission granted to copy the exercises provided in this guide. For educational use ONLY.

If you were playing in a pond what things might you see? List those things on the solid black lines.



Reinforcement Lessons:

Lesson #1: Like the children in the video, visit a pond and observe the different life forms in and around the pond. Perhaps have the children bring paper and color crayons to draw some of their observations. If possible, use a binocular(s), to have the children view the pond. Also during your visit, inform the children about the effects pollution has on ponds. Then encourage the children to clean up any pollution they may see during your visit.

Lesson #2: The video discusses many reasons why ponds are so important to the life forms in and around ponds. Discuss what these reasons are; e.g. shelter, lay their eggs, bathing, to keep cool, source for food and water etc.

Lesson #3: Discuss some of the activities people do associated with ponds e.g. ice skating, swimming, fishing, canoeing, bird watching, etc.



Ponds provide a spot where children can play, splash, cool down and even emerge cleaner than they went in. Naturally in nature ponds are also habitats and sources of nourishment for many interesting plants and animals.

Program Objectives

After viewing the program, children should understand:

- what ponds are & the role they play in the natural nature of earth.
- the different kinds of life forms found in ponds.
- a working vocabulary (keywords) associated with ponds.
- what things are found in all ponds.

Keywords: Teacher's Note: Before assigning the following exercises discuss with the children these definitions for keywords:

- **PONDS:** A shallow body of water smaller than a lake inhabited by birds (swans, ducks, etc.), fish (bass, carp, bullheads etc.), plants (waterlilies, wildflowers etc.), animals (muskrats, turtles, frogs etc.), and insects (water spiders, water scorpions, water scavenger beetles etc.).
- **DUCKLINGS:** Young ducks.
- **MALLARDS:** Most common kind of duck (pond bird).
- **FROGS:** Water creatures born in ponds named tadpoles and live completely underwater. However, as tadpoles grow older they become frogs and begin to live only partially in the water near ponds. Adult frogs need the water of ponds to keep their skin moist and to lay their eggs.
- **WATER LILIES:** Common plant found in ponds. Their leaves called **lily pads** appear on the water surface of ponds & act as if they are floating. However, lily pads are attached to a stem which extends to the bottom of the pond. The stem, like other plants, has roots which grow deep into the mud of the pond.
- **OXYGEN:** Odorless gas produced and released into the water by underwater plants. This gas is then used by pond animals to live and breathe.
- **POLLUTION:** Garbage (i.e. paper bag) found in ponds.
- **HIBERNATE:** To sleep or rest in a protective area during the winter. For example, turtles burrow into the bottom of the pond until warmer weather & Bass inhabit the deepest part of a pond sometimes finding rocks for protection.

Follow-Up Activities:

- 1) Ask a biologist to visit your school to discuss the importance of ponds and how ponds affect its surrounding ecosystem.
- 2) Perhaps during a visit to a pond environment, (reinforcement lesson #1 page 8 of this guide) the children can also collect small samples e.g. pond water, weed grass, etc. to view under a microscope. However, please inform the children not to disturb the natural nature of things and depending on where you visit, please check with local authorities.
- 3) Visit a local science museum, forest preserve or wildlife conservatory to reinforce the information in the video and further educate the children about the importance of ponds.
- 4) Play the "Pond Game" or Coordinate a theatrical play. Assign the children to role play the different life forms in and around ponds. Perhaps have the children wear costumes to represent a pond environment. Then, discuss how each of those life forms use the pond. For example, fish eat insects for food; the plants provide shelter for animals and their eggs; Frogs use the pond water to keep their skin moist; Ducks bath in the pond; Turtles burrow into the bottom mud of the pond to hibernate during the winter etc.

Exercise #4:

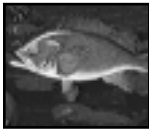
The following pictures show the different kinds of life found in or near ponds as described in the video. Place an **X** in the box to indicate which life forms are found in or near ponds.



MALLARDS



WATER LILIES



BASS



FROG



TURTLE



WATER BUG

Exercise #1:

TADPOLES grow up to become:
Circle one of the following:

• Birds

• Frogs

• Turtles

.....
Place an **X** in the box
to indicate what season pond life hibernates:

• summer

• fall

• winter

.....
Which of the following are names of pond fish:
CIRCLE one of the following:

1) bullheads, bass, carp

2) mallards, ducklings, swans

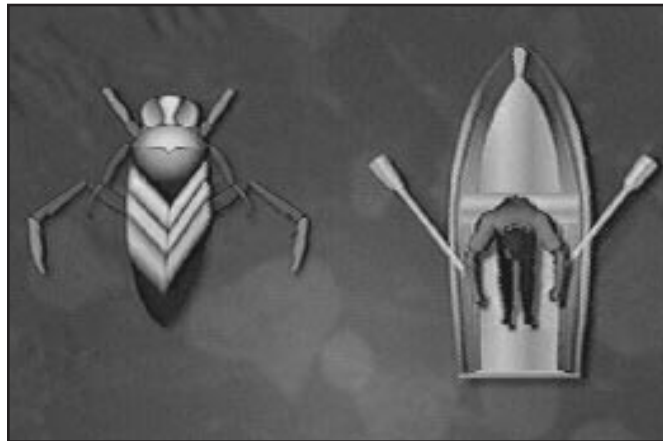
3) frogs, turtles, muskrats

Exercise #2:

The following picture shows how this pond creature swims on its back. On the solid black line, write the name of this pond creature. Use the words list.

Words List:

- bird
- fish
- man
- insect
- plant



Exercise #3:

Below are some keywords and their definitions as discussed in the video. Match the keyword with its definition by writing the number in the box. *Follow the Example Shown.* **Teacher's Note:** before circulating handouts for this exercise discuss the definitions for these keywords (Pg. 2 of this guide).

Keywords:

- example • water lilies
- pond
- hibernate
- mallards

Definitions

- 1) To sleep or rest in a protective area during the winter.
- 2) Most common kind of duck (pond bird).
- 3) A shallow body of water smaller than a lake inhabited by birds, plants, fish, insects, and animals.
- 4) A common plant found in ponds.