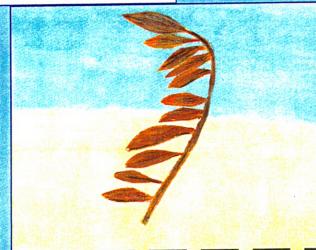






POND CALENDAR







Learning Targets:

A Pond Is An Ecosystem... Grade 3, Room 4

I can describe the difference between a vertebrate and invertebrate and give examples of some found in the pond.

I can compare and contrast animals found in a pond and group them by their physical characteristics.

I can create a diagram with labels that demonstrate the stages of metamorphosis that a frog goes through.

I can explain what animals and plants need to survive in their environment.

I can explain and give examples of how inherited characteristics of a living organism from the pond allow the organism to survive. (These are called adaptations.)

I can explain what might happen to different organisms in the pond if it becomes polluted or dries up.

I can make a diagram of a food chain and explain the relationship between the producers, the consumers and the decomposers.

I can apply what I have learned about the pond ecosystem to other ecosystems throughout the world.

I can sketch, record data and write observations about the pond habitat in my journal.

I can summarize information from my reading.

I can determine what is important to put into my writing.

I can identify rhyme and rhythm, repetition and sensory images in poems and write a short poem that contains simple details about my living organism.

I can use the internet to research information about my living organism, and use the computer to process my work.

I can critique art and written pieces to improve work.

I word process my final documents.

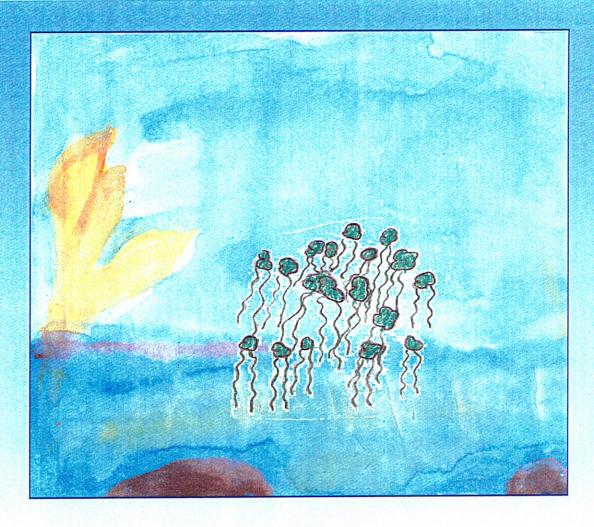


This project was researched and illustrated by the third grade students in

Mrs. Glogowski's reading class at the Alice B. Beal

Magnet Expeditionary Learning School Springfield, MA

Spring 2008



Kaylee - Common Duckweed

Class

The common duckweed belongs to the plant family. It has roots and can make its own food.

Habitat

Duckweed lives in wet places. You often find duckweed in ponds. You can find duck weed in marshes and quiet streams. It needs a moist area to live and because of this it is also found in the desert in the mud.

Food chain

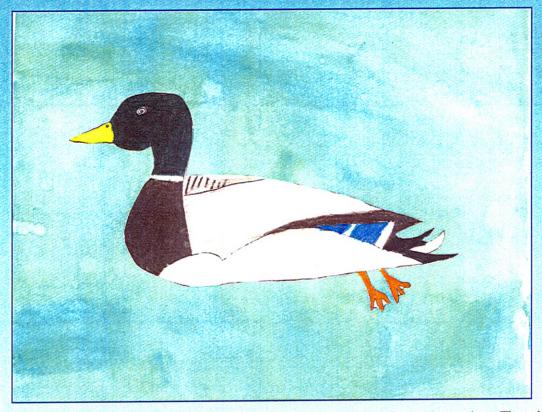
Plants make their own food and the common duckweed needs air and energy from the sunlight to make its own. They are a food source for mallard ducks and Canada geese. The snapping turtle also loves duckweed. It is eaten by many pond organisms!

Interesting facts

Duckweed has a tiny green leaf with long roots that flow in the water. When the water dries up duckweed can become stranded on mud

June 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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29	30				Duckweed roots are it floats on top of wa Duckweed is shelt	ter



Kiara - Mallard Duck

The mallard duck is a bird. What makes a bird a bird is that all of them breathe with lungs. They have two legs and two wings. They also have feathers and lay eggs. Did you know that some birds cannot fly!

A mallard duck's habitat is in the wetlands, marshes, ponds, rivers, and lakes. Mallard ducks also live near the ocean. They love water! Ducks can be found everywhere except in Antarctica because it is too cold.

Food chain

The mallard duck preys on insects, snails, mollusks, fish, underwater plants, and grass. They also have many predators are. The fox, weasel and predatory birds, such as the hawk, are just a few. Ducklings are easy prey for them.

Life cycle

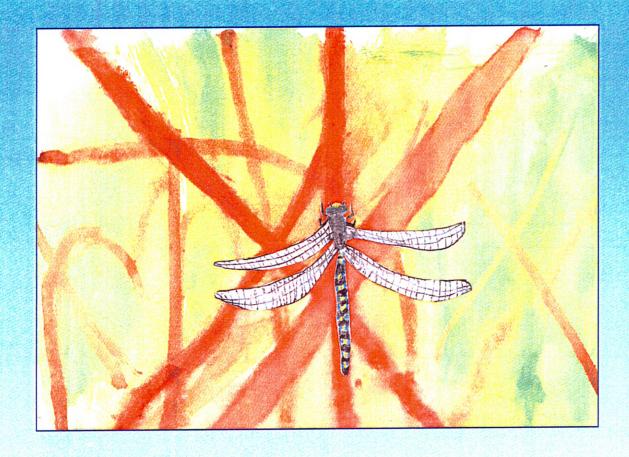
The life cycle of a mallard duck starts when an egg is laid. It takes 26 to 30 days for the mallard duckling to hatch out of its egg. The nesting takes place between March and July. After it hatches the ducklings leave the nest. They begin to fly when they are between 49 and 60 days old.

Interesting facts

Did you know it takes 28 days for a duck egg to hatch from when the mother starts to sit on it! Another thing is that ducks love the water. Ducks travel to warmer places where water cannot freeze into ice. If a duckling is too high to reach the water, they will jump out of the nest, even if it is 10 feet high in the air, without harm.

July 2008

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27	28	29	30	31		



Muryah - Dragonfly

A dragonfly is an insect .A dragonfly is an insect because it has six legs .It also has three body parts a head, thorax and abdomen .They lay eggs.

Habitat

The habitat of a dragonfly is in every part of the world where there is water. They live near ponds, lakes, streams, rivers, marshes and dragonflies even live near waterfalls! They like to be in moist and murky places.

Food chain

Dragonflies eat other living organisms. They are predators. Dragonflies eat insects while they are flying. The dragonfly nymph on the other hand eats tadpoles, small frogs and even small fish!

Interesting facts

Did you know dragonfly nymphs have a jaw that shoots from its mouth to catch its prey? Dragonflies are blue, green or red . They have been around for millions of years. In fact they were here before the dinosaurs, but they use to be as big as an owl!

Life cycle

The dragonfly goes through three stages in its life-cycle. First, they start off in the water as an egg. Then the dragonfly becomes a nymph. The nymph eats and grows. The nymph grows so big it molts or sheds its skin two times. The second time it molts its skin it comes out as an adult dragonfly.

August 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Dragonfly fly high All of these creatures molt twice From water to air					I	2
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Leanne- Bullfrog

Class

A bullfrog is an amphibian because it has two stages in its life. It starts as an egg in the water. Then it changes into a bullfrog and comes out onto the land and breathes with lungs.

Life Cycle

The life cycle of a bullfrog has two stages. It starts as an egg, then turns into a tadpole and has gills. It grows hind legs and the tail gets shorter and shorter. It grows front legs to become a bullfrog. It comes out on land to live. It takes two years for this to happen.

Food chain

The bullfrog eats small snakes, worms, insects, crustaceans, other frogs and tadpoles, and aquatic eggs of fish, insects, and salamanders. Some animals eat the bullfrogs too. Herons, the great egrets, turtles, water snakes, and raccoons all eat bullfrogs.

Habitat

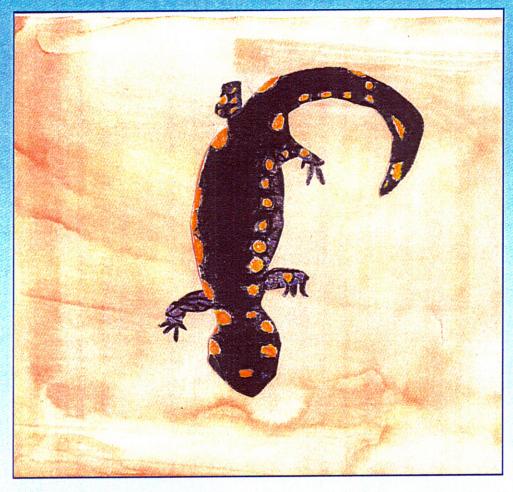
The bullfrog's habitat is in fresh water lakes and marshes. It likes ponds with quiet and slow moving water. Bullfrogs like sunny areas.

Interesting facts

Did you know there are more than 400 species of frogs? Breeding takes place from May to July. A bullfrog can lay as many as 2,000 eggs! Tadpoles hibernate under the mud in the winter along with bullfrogs.

September 2008

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28	29	30		Та	Eggs laid in water dpoles start growing the Changes into bullfrog	ir legs



Ryan - Spotted Salamander

Did you know a spotted salamander is an amphibian? It's an amphibian because it has two lives. It is also a vertebrate because it has a backbone.

Life cycle

The salamander starts out in the water as an egg, hatches and breathes with gills. Then it goes through a metamorphosis or change and comes out onto land and grows legs and breathes with lungs. The salamander lives on land until it breeds.

Habitat

A spotted salamander lives near water or it will die because it needs moisture. It lives in logs, under leaves, and rocks. Sometimes they live in the pond and on the side of the pond because they need moisture or their skin will wrinkle up!

Interesting facts

Spotted salamanders eat worms, spiders, tadpoles, and grubs. Sometimes they eat each other! Its predators are birds, fox, fish, snakes, and frogs. A spotted salamander has colorful spots to show it's poisonous to its predators. It has a sticky glue substance it uses if it's being attacked. The salamander does this by using this glue to lock a predator's jaw closed. Then the predator can't eat anything so it will starve to death.

October 2008

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26	27	28	29	30	31	



David- Water Strider

Class The water strider is an animal with jointed legs. It can fly. If lives on water. It walks on water. It eats little bugs. It has an abdomen, thorax, and a head and antenna.

Habitat

The water strider lives on water and slow running streams. A water strider's legs have tiny water repellent hairs that hold tiny air bubbles, allowing them to skate on the surface of the water.

The Life Cycle

The water strider's life cycle is egg, nymph, and adult.

Interesting Facts

The water strider flies and drops down to eat insects that are trapped on top of the water. You can see water striders at Forest Park.

November 2008

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			Water striders sk	ate	
	8	O	Eaten by big bu	gs	
7	7	0 11 7 18	0 11 12 7 18 19 4 25 26	0 11 12 13 13 7 18 19 20 4 25 26 27 Water striders sk	0 11 12 13 14 7 18 19 20 21



Alejandro - Snapping Turtle

Class Snapping turtles are very interesting. What makes a snapping turtle a snapping turtle is that it is covered with scales or plates and they have dry skin. This means it is in the reptile class. They breathe with lungs and lay eggs.

Habitat

Some enjoy the water. Snapping turtles live in fresh water regions. They spend most of there life under water but they also live on land.

Food chain

The animals that eat snapping turtles are raccoons, skunks, red fox, minks, large birds, alligators, snake and coyotes. The things that snapping turtles eat are fish, frogs, salamanders, small turtles, water snakes and other aquatic mammals.

Life cycle

The life cycle of a snapping starts as an egg. All turtles lay eggs. They build their nests on land and they dig holes in which to cover their eggs. After it hatches it goes to the water to live. A snapping turtle is VICIOUS so do not touch one.

Interesting facts

Snapping turtles were used to find dead bodies in lakes. They were tied to ropes and released into the water. When they stopped moving, the trackers knew that they were feeding on something.

December 2008

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29	30	31		It starts as an eg It is a vicious tur It eats big bird	tle
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Mariam- Great Blue Heron

Class

The blue heron belongs to the class of birds because it has two wings, two legs, feathers, breathes with lungs, and lays eggs. The blue heron is a vertebrate that means it has a back bone.

Habitat

The great blue heron's habitat is in North America. They live on land but they eat their pray in the water. The great blue heron stands in the water and stabs it's pray with its bill. They pray on insects, rodents, small birds, and amphibians such as spring peepers, salamander, frogs, toads, tadpoles and fish too.

Life cycle

The life cycle of the great blue heron is that the blue heron lays three to seven greenish color eggs. It takes 4 weeks for the eggs to hatch during July or August.

Interesting facts

Did you know that the heron stays very still to catch its food, which are reptiles and amphibians? Another kind of heron is a white heron. They are related birds. A blue heron can live to be about 15 years old.

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	The mother lays eggs Great blue heron is hatch Look at that heron	ing		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
- 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Terry - Phragmites

Clas

A phragmite is a plant because it has a stem, leaves and reproduces by seeds. The phragmite plant stores these little seeds on the top of the plant. When you touch this plant it feels fuzzy. Animals use phragmites as camouflage also.

Habitat

Phragmites grow around ponds and rivers. Some grow near lakes and other wetlands. They grow in groups and spread easily. Phragmites can be found in many areas.

Life cycle

The life cycle of a phragmite starts as a seed. Then it grows a stem with purple flowers and leaves. It finally looks like an adult plant. Later the phragmites seeds blow off in the wind to start the whole process over again.

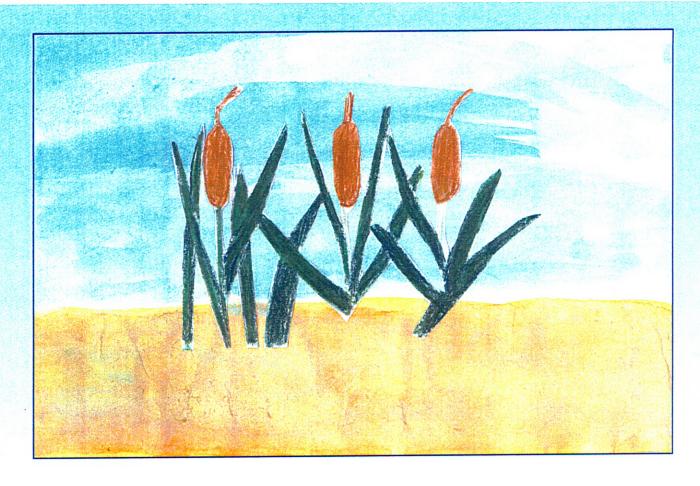
Interesting Facts

Did you know a full grown phragmite grows 5-13 feet tall? Phramites take over ponds because they grow in groups and they are very tall. It is also called a reed. People can use this plant to make baskets, jewelry and pen tips.

Phragmites are brown
Phragmites live around ponds
They are very tall

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28



Hannah - Cattails

Class

The cattail belongs to the class of plants. It has a stem, many leaves that are long and skinny, and roots.

Life cycle

The life cycle of the cattail is that it starts as a seed from the top of the plant that looks like a cat's tail. Then it gets nutrients from the soil, sun and water, makes its own food, and grows. It is perennial! That means it comes up every year.

Habitat

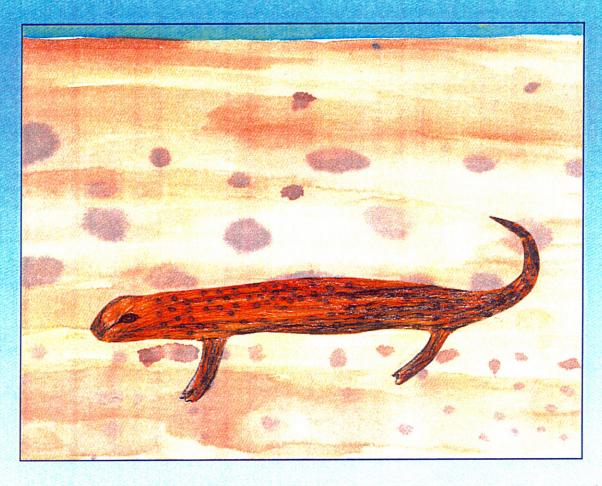
The habitat of the cattail is they grow along lakes, marshes, swamps and near ditches and fresh water. Cattails like wet areas.

Interesting facts

The first cattails seen in the United States were recorded in 1836 in the New England area. Native Americans made a medicine out of the roots which they applied to wounds and burns. They also used the leaves in weaving and still do today. Some pond animals hide in the cattail plants and some animals make nests in them because they are great for camouflage. Camouflage means that they blend in and then the living organism won't be eaten by a predator.

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31		Cattails car	ls grow in ponds. make there own foo- ils can grow big.	d.



Brooklyn -Spotted Newt

Class

A spotted newt belongs to the amphibian class because it starts as an egg in water and breathes with gills. Then it changes, comes out on land and breathes with lungs. That's why the spotted newt is an amphibian.

Habitat

The habitats of the spotted newts are ponds, lakes, rivers and forest areas. They live by water so they can lay their eggs.

Food chain

Spotted newts eat earthworms, red worms and snails. It will eat anything that is small.

Their eggs are eaten by many predators and as tadpoles they are eaten by water bugs, herons and snakes.

Life cycle

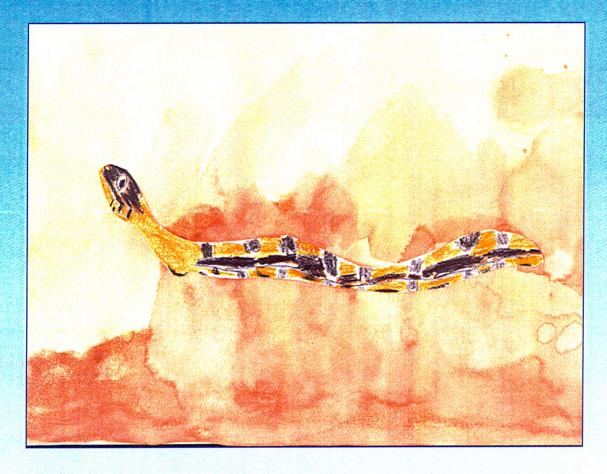
Like all amphibians, newts spend their life near water because they must return to lay their eggs. When the eggs hatch they breathe with gills and swim, but as the spotted newt grows they change. They grow legs and their gills disappear. Then they leave the water for land where they breathe with lungs.

Interesting facts

A female spotted newt will lay three hundred to four hundred eggs, one at a time, in early summer.

April 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Spotted newts are small A spotted newt has 3 lives They eat worms and snail	s	I	2	3	4
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



Julian - Eastern Garter Snake

Class

My animal is a reptile. It breathes with lungs. It has scales. It gives birth. It likes water. The eastern garter snake has dry skin.

Life cycle

The eastern garter snake mates from late March to May. They give birth to live snakes. There may be fifty young born together. They shed skin. They live about 10 years.

Habitat

They live in grasslands, woodlands, usually near water, and other moist places like marshes, streams, damp wood, wet meadows, parks, gardens, weed patches. They hibernate in the winter.

Interesting facts

They eat worms, fish, and amphibians. They are about 50 inches long. These snakes release a smelly fluid. This snake's color pattern is yellow or orange.

May 2009

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					22	22
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
				5		
31				Slithers thr	ough the grass s, fish, and others ely will bite.	
				They rare	ely will bite.	



Gary - Raccoon

Class

Do you know what class a raccoon is in? They are mammals because they have fur and breathe with lungs. They have live babies that drink milk from their mother's body. Raccoons are vertebrates because they have a backbone.

Habitat

The raccoon's habitat is in the tree trunks of wooded areas. They sometimes live in empty buildings, garages, sheds and even in attics of houses. Raccoons can live almost anywhere!

Food chain

A raccoon normally feeds alongside ponds, lakes and other waterways. They hunt in the water looking for fish, crayfish, frogs and turtles. A raccoon may catch a mouse or muskrat along the banks of a pond, stream or river. A raccoon will also search in the woods for insects, nuts, fruits, young birds and bird eggs. A raccoon's predators are fox, bobcats, coyotes, and owls.

Life Cycle

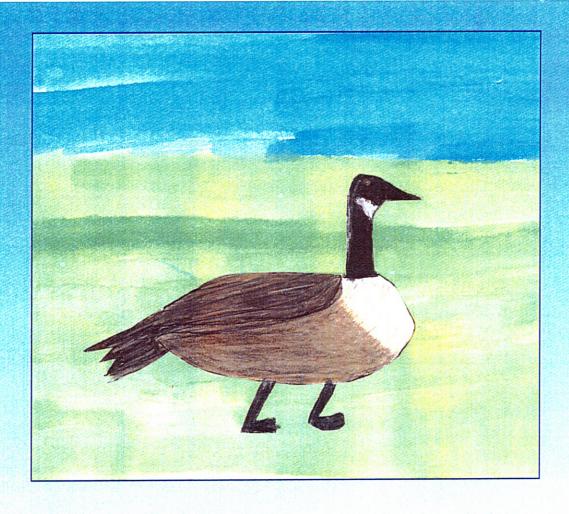
A raccoon's life cycle begins as a kit. The kits are blind for the first 3 weeks. The mother takes care of the kits, teaching them how to hunt and climb trees. At about 12 months the kits will be on their own.

Interesting fact

Did you know that raccoons smack their kits on the bottoms if they are playing to rough? An adult raccoon can live up to 150 years!

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30			A raccoon is born	
				T	ey are blind for 3 weeks Cared by mother	
					Cared by mother	



Hannah - Canada goose

Class

Do you know what class a Canada goose is in? Well, it is in the bird class because it has feathers, a beak, two legs and wings. It also lays eggs. It's a vertebrate because it has a back bone.

Habitat

A Canada goose lives in North America. They migrate in the winter. This means they move to warmer areas. They live around ponds, lakes, and rivers because it likes the wet areas to swim and it is easier to find food. Geese eat lots of things such as grass, roots and leaves.

Life cycle

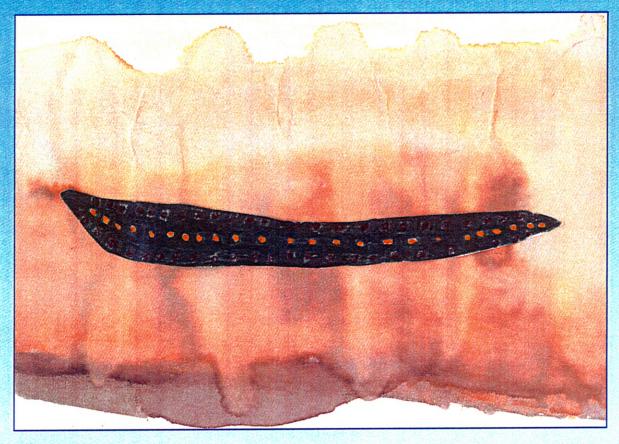
The life cycle of the Canadian goose starts as an egg and then hatches 28 days later. As a little baby goose it grows and the father takes care of it and watches the nest. Then the goose becomes an adult.

Interesting facts

Did you know that Canadian geese are together for more than 20 YEARS! They also have 13 different calls so that they can talk to one another. They all have black and white faces and long necks that can help them to get food to eat. The Canada goose is herbivore because it eats plants only.

July 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
lik	A Canada goose es the pond water to sv and look for its food	vim	I	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



Mohammed - Leech

Class

The leech belongs to the ringed worm class. What makes it included in this group is that it has sections, a long body and it lays eggs. A leech is an invertebrate which means it has no backbone.

Habitat

A leech lives in ponds and under mud, rocks and leaves. They can camouflage well because of their coloring. Camouflage means to blend in.

Life cycle

The life cycle of a leech is that they start as an egg in a cocoon left by the adult leech. The cocoon attaches to rocks or logs and dries. After many weeks baby leeches hatch and are on there own.

Interesting facts

Did you know leeches breathe from their skin when they don't have any water?

A long time ago, doctors used leeches to cure patients by taking out all the bad blood. The leech has two sharp teeth to attach itself and then suck out the blood. They get fat by sucking blood. The longest leech recorded was 18 inches long!

Food chain

Leeches eat insect larva, worms and snails. Blood sucking leeches eat reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals. The leech has many predators. These predators include the red spotted newt, the mallard duck, the Canada goose and the spring peeper which is a frog.

August 2009

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9			12			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31		7	Leeches eat so Leeches come fr	ome snails om a cocoon	
				Leeches come fr They are a rin	ged worm	



Kaylie- Crayfish Class

The crayfish is in the class of animals with jointed legs. It reproduces by laying eggs and it has an exoskeleton. An exoskeleton is a skeleton outside the body of a living organism.

Habitat

A habitat is where a living organisms lives. A crayfish lives in fresh water such as ponds, streams, lakes and swamps. It likes to live on the bottom of streams, swamps, ponds and lakes under rocks.

Food

Its prey is plants, animals and other living organisms such as small fish, worms, insects, snails and water plants. Many living organisms eat crayfish such as large fish, herons, snakes and people.

Life cycle

A life cycle is how a living organism starts and how it changes. A crayfish starts from an egg then it hatches and it looks like its mother and father but smaller. After, it molts to a much bigger crayfish and grows to be an adult. Molting is when it sheds its exoskeleton and a new one forms. Adults may molt twice a year. If it's a female it will reproduce by laying eggs.

Interesting facts

Did you know crayfish have been found 10 feet underground! Crayfish are also called crawdads and crawfish.

September 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Crayfish like to swim Getting bigger and molting Looks like a lobster	<i>1</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



Elijah - Spring Peeper

Class

A spring peeper is an amphibian because it lays eggs, the young have gills to breathe under water and it has two stages in their lives. The spring peeper starts in the water, changes and comes out to land.

Life cycle

The spring peeper's life cycle starts as an egg that hatches. After they hatch, they become tadpoles and breathe through gills. Then they grow arms and legs and live on the land. They now breathe through lungs and are full grown.

Food chain

Spring peeper's predators are the great diving beetle, snakes, skunks, and larger frogs.

The spring peeper preys on small spiders, ants, but mostly eats water bugs.

Habitat

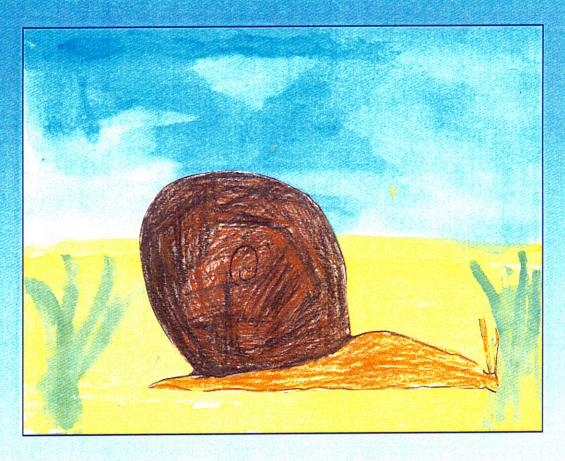
The spring peeper's habitat is North America, Canada, and South America. They live under loose bark and logs near ponds and in forest. They are hard to find.

Interesting facts

Did you know that in New Brunswick spring peepers are called tinkle toes?

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	They are born from egg Spring peepers live in the They eat lots of bugs.	s. rees.		1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Kamri-Pond Snail

Class

A snail is a mollusk that has a soft body and a hard shell. Pond snails are usually tan or dark brown. Pond snails creep along stones and plants in a pond. Snails lay eggs. Snails are much like slugs.

Life Cycle

A snail makes a hole in the soil and lays its egg. After about 21 days the eggs hatch. Their bodies are a very pale color. The body gets darker. After two years the snail is fully grown.

Habitat

Common snails live in varied habitats. They are often found in gardens, parks, forests, and dunes.

Food Chain

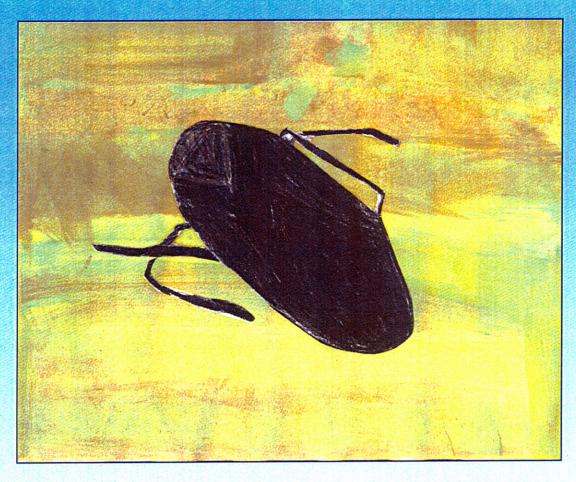
Animals that eat pond snails are birds, rats, beetles and ducks. The pond snail eats rotten leaves and plants.

Adaptation

Snails have tentacles that can taste smell and feel. They have no bones. Snail's shells come in all shapes and sizes.

November 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
I	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	9		Pond snails Bodies darker An ad	hatch their eggs n and grow shells ult is born	



N'Shiya - Water Boatman

Class

The water boatman is an insect because they have six legs, two antennae, a head, abdomen and thorax. The water boatman is somewhat flattened in shape. It has scoops or oar shaped hind legs which allow it to swim.

Life cycle

The females start by laying the eggs. The eggs then turn into nymphs. It takes them five weeks to grow and molt into full grown water boatman.

Food chain

They feed on plant material including algae. They also eat small insects that fall in the water.

Habitat

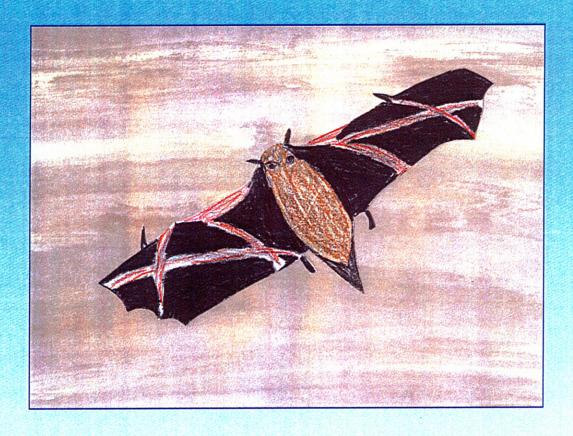
The water boatmen live in fresh or salty water throughout the world. They paddle along the water's surface with its hind legs. They stay mostly around lakes and ponds, but they can survive on any body of water, even mud puddles.

Interesting facts

About 525 species of water boatmen are found in North America. Some of them have wings. The water boatmen often swim in open water. They can be seen in clusters swimming through a pond.

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Swims With its scooped Lives on	on water d hind legs quickly many leaves.	I	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



Joseph - Brown Bat

Class

The living organism I am studying is the brown bat. It is in the mammal class.

A mammal has babies that are born live and the mother feeds milk to their young. Mammals have lungs to breathe with and hair or fur and they do not lay eggs.

Habitat

The brown bat lives in dark places like in a cave. They rise at dusk to hunt bugs.

They are commonly found in North America. Little brown bats live in the temperate zones. They must find some way of dealing with the cold winter. Most bats migrate or hibernate but brown bats do both.

Life cycle

Mother Brown bats start the life cycle by mating in the fall. Then they give birth to only one live young in the spring called a pup. The pup attaches itself to its mother and feeds off of its milk. They are raised in a nursery colony with thousands of other baby bats. It flies away after being nursed for two weeks. They can live up to 33 years however males live longer on an average than females.

Interesting facts

At night the bats hunt bugs. They use high pitch sounds. The sounds bounce off objects near them. It tells bats what's flying in front of them. This is called echolocation. Bats catch bugs this way.

2010

A brown bat is born. Its cool wings help it fly. It hunts bugs at night.

Jan	uary					
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Apr	ril					
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May	/					
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August										
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28				
29	30	31								

September									
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
26	27	28	29	30					

November											
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
28	29	30									

December													
S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
			1	2	3	4							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
26	27	28	29	30	31								



Christina - Bluegill

Class

A blue gill is in the class of fish because it has no legs but has a tail and fins. They lay eggs and swim in water with gills. It has babies by spawning.

Habitat

A bluegill can live in shallow water. They also can be found in streams and ponds with deep beds of weeds. Bluegills are found in many parts of the world.

Food chain

Bluegills eats anything they can get in their mouth like algae, insects, small minnows, mollusks, worms, crickets, crustaceans and crayfish.

Life cycle

The life cycle of a bluegill starts as eggs which are laid during the months of May, June and July. Females leave their nest immediately after spawning. Males tend the eggs and fan them with their fins to keep them warm.

Interesting facts

A bluegill is good food to eat. A bluegill can be four pounds. A female bluegill has red under its stomach and a male has blue under its stomach.

A bluegill can swim
A bluegill is very blue
A blue gill lays eggs