

WARNING!
Cover cuts and
grazes with
waterproof plasters.

Go pond dipping

Discover which minibeasts are lurking near you.



What you need

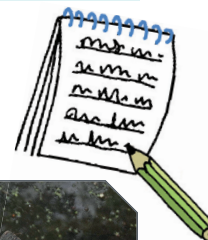
- Old clothes
- Wellies
- A shallow bowl or tray (paler colours work best)
- Fishing net
- Smartphone or camera
- Magnifying glass
- Wildlife guidebook
- Disinfectant



How does it work?

Ponds are a haven for wildlife. Even a small pool of standing water makes a great home for insects such as damselflies, dragonflies and pondskaters. These minibeasts attract larger animals too – bats, birds and frogs are all keen to snack on the pond's residents. You might find a pond in a nearby park or woodland, or perhaps there's one in your garden. Ponds can be dangerous places and are sometimes deeper than you expect. Be careful and take an adult with you. Stay on dry land and wear clothes you don't mind getting messy. If you haven't got a wildlife guidebook, you can find one here tinyurl.com/SN-pond

This activity is one of many ideas available on the Wildlife Trusts' Wildlife Watch website.



1 Dress up in old clothes and wellies then head to a pond. Scoop some water into your bowl. This provides a place to view the beasts you find.



2 Gently pull your net through the pond water in a figure-of-eight pattern. Plop any finds you catch into the bowl.



3 Take a picture of the minibeasts, then try to identify what they are. Use a magnifying glass and wildlife ID guide to help you.



4 Be sure to return the animals and water to the pond. Back at home, wash your hands thoroughly and disinfect your net.

ILLUSTRATIONS: CORINNE WELCH; PHOTOGRAPHS: GETTY IMAGES - ALAMY - REX SHUTTERSTOCK

