
30. MAPPING A POND

Overview: This activity will provide an opportunity for students to create a map of the pond area.

Objective: Students will create a map of the Yuma Conservation Garden Pond. The map will include the shore line, large rocks, plants, a key and any other significant features they choose to include.

Time needed: 1-2 hours

Group Size: 2 or 3

Age appropriateness: 4th grade and up

Site: pond

Background: A pond is a shallow body of water with a muddy bottom. A pond may have been formed by glaciers moving across the land, a landslide, or created by animals or people. A lot of vegetation can be found growing around and in ponds. The plants provide food and a safe place for animals to live. Many insects can be found around a pond also. Plants and animals depend on each other as the pond creates its own mini ecosystem. A pond has three layers; the muddy bottom, the open water, and the surface film.

Materials:

Provided at the Garden

Clipboards

Provided by the classroom teacher

Crayons or color pencils

White construction or drawing paper

Preparation: none required

Pre Activity: Have students make maps of their bedrooms or their classroom and then extend the activity by mapping an outside area at home or at school including plant and animal life including symbols and a key.

Procedure:

1. Give each group a piece of white construction paper, clip-board and color pencils.
2. Allow students free movement around the pond to locate items for their map and to see the pond from several perspectives.
3. After enough time is given, have students share their products with the whole group.
4. Discussion may include items from the following checklist:

Modifications: Depending on the level of ability, the map may include more or less detail.

Extensions: Visit the pond several times and record any changes that may be observed. Classify organisms that may be found. For a literature connection, students can create stories about the animals found at the pond. Make a mural or diorama of the pond based on the map they made.

Reference List:

At the Edge of the Pond, by William T. George; Greenwillow Books, 1989.

The Hidden Life of the Pond, by David M. Schwartz; Crown Publishers, 1988.

Pond & Stream Habitats, Evan-Moor Educational Publishers, 1996.

Time of Year: any