



HUMBER ARBORETUM ECO CENTRE



POND LIFE

INTERESTING FACTS

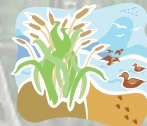
- ✦ Ponds support a wide variety of life including birds, crayfish, fish, frogs, insects, and turtles.
- ✦ Ponds are quiet, shallow bodies of water that allow enough sunlight to reach their bottom. The sunlight supports the growth of rooted plants from shore to shore.
- ✦ Water temperature of ponds is fairly even from top to bottom and changes with the outside air temperature.
- ✦ If left alone, ponds will eventually fill in with dirt and debris until they become solid land. It often takes hundreds of years for a pond to be transformed from a body of clear water into soil.
- ✦ 3 different types of aquatic plants can be found in ponds. Submersible plants are those that live entirely under water, floating, and emergent which are plants that have roots under water but the rest of the plant is above the surface.



COOL ACTIVITIES

POND RELAY RACE

- ✦ Create a list of all the animals big and small that live in the pond at the arboretum (you can get a list from us). Now make a card for each of the animals including an action that goes along with that animal (again you can get the actions for the animals from us or make up your own)



- ✦ Bring your class outside and divide them into two teams and line them up beside each other at the starting line.
- ✦ Hand out a card to each of the students and explain to them that during the relay race they must do the action on their card (not just running). Once you have handed out the cards you can begin the race. Much like other relay races the children will do their actions racing to a certain point comeback and sit down when they have past the finish line (which is also the starting line).

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What does the term benthic macro invertebrate mean? (ANS: This term refers to the smaller organisms that live in the bottom of the pond. Benthic refers to the “benthos” or bottom of the pond, “macro” refers to the size of the organisms which are visible with the naked eye, and invertebrate means they have no backbone.)
2. Why would the benthic macro invertebrates be different in the pond than the river? (ANS: The benthics in the river are larger than the pond but they are unique because they are wide and flat to help them swim against the flowing water.)
3. Why can the amount of oxygen available to the pond life vary so much in one day? (ANS: Because ponds are shallow it is very easy for them to warm up on a hot day when this happens the amount of oxygen available drops because an increase in water temperature decreases the amount of oxygen available to the organisms living in the pond.)

