Name _____ Date _____

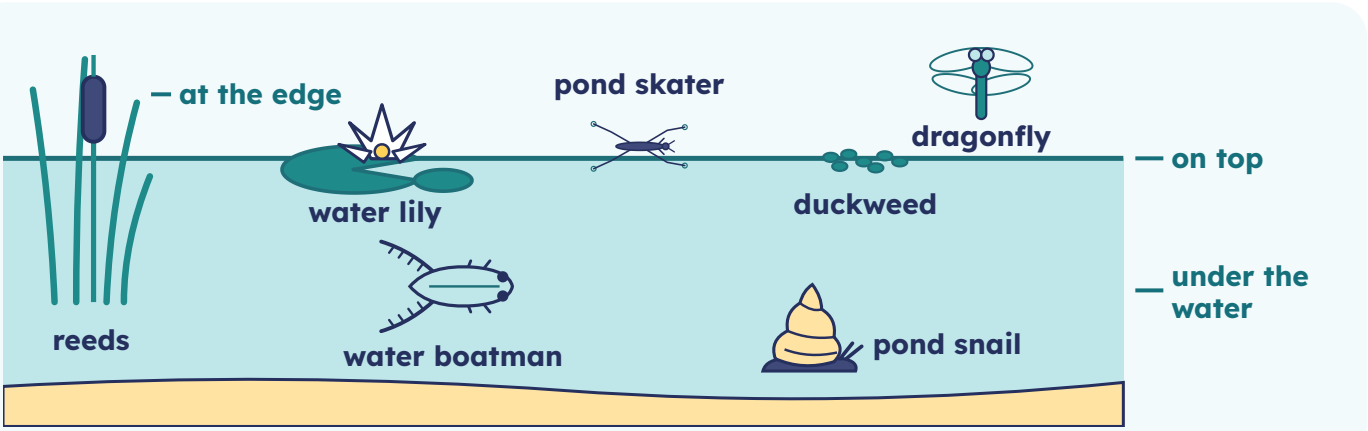
Pond life

A pond is a big habitat, full of tiny homes.

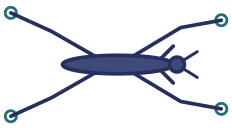
1 Learn



Some minibeasts live in water. In a pond, look **on top** of the water, **under** the water and **at the edge**.

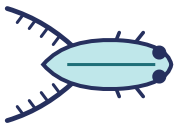


Pond skater or water boatman? Ask: where is it?



Pond skater

- walks **on top** of the water
- long, thin legs spread out wide



Water boatman

- swims **under** the water
- paddles with 2 long back legs, like oars on a boat

Flip's tip: pond dipping is **always with a grown-up**. Stay back from the edge, and tip everything gently back into the pond.

Warm up: ring the plants that grow in a pond.


water lily


daisy


reeds


dandelion

Grown-ups: read Flip's words aloud. Trace the three parts of the pond with a finger, and name who lives in each part.

Name _____ Date _____

2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Walk on water

You need: a bowl of water, a metal paper clip, a small piece of kitchen paper or tissue, and washing-up liquid.

How can a pond skater stand on top of a pond? Let's find out.

1. Drop the paper clip into the water. Does it float or sink?
2. Dry the clip. Lay the paper flat on the water and put the clip gently on top.
3. Wait. The paper soaks up water and sinks. Does the clip stay on top?
4. Look at the water round the clip. It dips, like a stretchy skin.
5. Now add one drop of washing-up liquid at the side of the bowl. Watch!

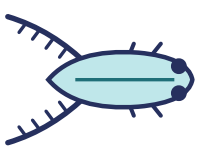
What we tried	I think it will…	What happened
1. clip dropped in	float sink	float sink
2. clip laid on paper	float sink	float sink
5. after the washing-up liquid	float sink	float sink

Grown-ups: the top of the water acts like a thin, stretchy skin. Pond skaters are very light and spread their long legs wide, so they stand on it. Soap weakens the skin, so the clip sinks.

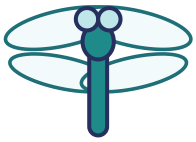
3 Practise

A. Name each pond minibeast. Use the words in the box.

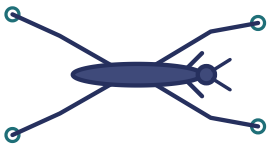
pond skater | water boatman | pond snail | dragonfly



_____



_____



_____



_____

Name _____ Date _____

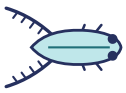
B. Where does it live? Tick one box for each.

	on top of the water	under the water	at the edge
pond skater			
water boatman			
water lily leaves			
reeds			
pond snail			

C. Pond or land? Ring the minibeasts that live **in a pond**.

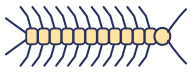

pond skater


woodlouse


water boatman


ladybird


pond snail


centipede

D. Finish this pond. Draw 1 plant and 2 minibeasts in the right places.

Challenge

Ava sees a minibeast with long, thin legs walking on top of the pond. "It's a water boatman!" she says. Is she right? How do you know?

_____

_____

_____

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ name minibeasts that live in a pond
- ☐ tell a pond skater from a water boatman
- ☐ name pond plants, like water lilies and reeds