

LIFE IN A POND

We will be creating a classroom mural of a pond, complete with appropriate plants and animals, a legend, a scale, color, labels. In addition to real animals, we will be designing our own animals that could live in freshwater aquatic environments. To do this we need to gather a great deal of information and make a number of decisions. Please read the questions below. On a separate sheet of paper, answer each question in detail.

Environment:

1. What is a pond?
2. A pond is like a _____ because _____.
3. What does the area surrounding a pond look like?
4. What/who lives around a pond?
5. What is in a pond? List and describe all possible.
6. Who lives around a pond? Be specific.
7. Who lives in a pond?
8. Describe the water in the pond.
9. Draw and color a pond and the area surrounding it. Label all parts. Include a scale and legend.

Imagine yourself living in water (pool or lake):

10. How does it feel? Describe the effects of life in water. For example resistance/friction on speed of movement, pressure, physical structures or behaviors adapted for life under, over, or on water.
11. What do you need to survive? List as many ideas as possible.
12. What would you like to have to help you?
13. What challenges would you face?
14. What ways might you solve them?

Physical features:

15. What would you look like? Why?
16. What features would you select? Include body shape, mouth parts, color, size, locomotion, camouflage, defense, aggression, etc.
17. How do you breathe?
18. What would each of those features do for you?
19. What would you be classified as?
20. What characteristics make you that animal?
21. Draw yourself. Label each part. Include a scale.
22. Where in the pond would you live: location or depth in the water column, border, emergent, submerged, free floating (like plankton), open water
23. What is your life span? Why?

24. Draw yourself in your environment.
25. Map your mobility showing paths--where do you see yourself moving?

Feeding and reproduction:

26. How do you obtain food?
27. How do you eat?
28. What do you eat? (prey)
29. What eats you? (predator)
30. How do you keep from being eaten? (defense)
31. Do you live in a group with others of your kind (hive, or colony) or alone? Why?
32. How do you find a mate?
33. How do you reproduce?
34. How many offspring do you reproduce at one time?
35. How often do you reproduce?
36. For how long do you reproduce?
37. How are you affected by daily/seasonal changes--no change in behavior, migration, hibernation, adult death and over-wintering of eggs/larvae/nymph.