

Pond Critters!
Grades: 1-2 & 3-4

Pond dwelling critters are remarkable for their diversity of size, shape and adaptations for finding food, moving and breathing. Students examine their own pond critter, brought by Hildene educators, to make observations and to identify how they are adapted to live in a watery world. Students also become familiar with the differences between the young and adult forms of their critters and build a pond food web.

Next Generation Science Standards Addressed:

First Grade

- 1-LS1-1. Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow and meet their needs.
- 1-LS3-1. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like their parents.

Second Grade

- 2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

Third Grade 3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles, but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction and death.

Fourth Grade

- 4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior and reproduction.