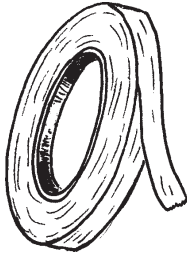


Plastic Bag Pond

This activity allows students to examine pond water up close, and will excite their curiosity and imagination about wetlands.

Materials:

- plastic baggy
- masking tape

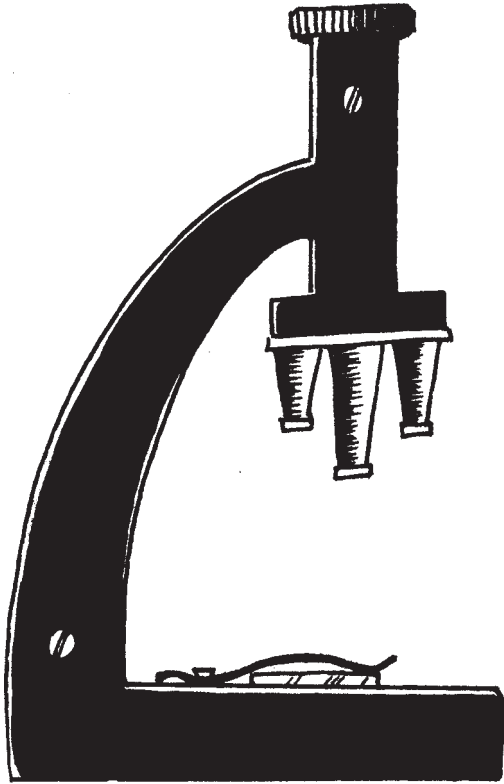


Instructions for the Teacher

1. Obtain a sample of water from the shallow water in a nearby pond. You should collect at least two or three litres. Make sure that you collect some from the bottom and from beside vegetation - this will maximize the chance that you catch something other than just water!
2. In the classroom, mix up your sample, pour about a cupful of this water into a plastic baggy, and seal the baggy with a strong adhesive tape, preferably a brand of fibre tape.
3. Using the same tape, affix the baggy to an outdoor window. The strong outdoor lighting will help illuminate any of the microorganisms in the baggy.



4. Challenge students to find signs of life in the water. To do this, they should use a magnifying lens of some sort. Have students describe the organisms they find in the water. Ask the students to write a descriptive paragraph describing the behaviour and appearance one of the organisms, and ask them to draw a large-scale diagram of the organism they chose.



5. How long can the plastic bags be kept on the window? Depending on the intensity of the light and the temperature, the organisms may stay alive for an extended period. Have students keep a page in their science book to record their observations over time.

Note: **The Microscopic World**

Seen up close with the naked eye, pond water contains many fascinating things. There is another equally fascinating world contained in a single drop of pond water - but you need help to see it.

If your school has dissecting microscopes, have students view a few drops of water on a viewing tray.

If you have a more powerful microscope, have students prepare slides for viewing. Commercially available staining solutions can assist with viewing these microorganisms. Consult a materials supply company for more information.