



Beacon Park

Pond dipping

Activity	Pond dipping
Recommended year groups	all
Class or group activity?	Either – teachers should make this decision based on resources and supervision available as well as the behaviour of their class. For younger learners, high adult to child ratios are recommended for health and safety reasons. We have found that groups of three to four per net and tray works well if the whole class is doing the activity at the same time.
Key outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learners will spend time outside in a (local) natural environment. • Learners will have opportunity to use a pond dipping technique to find, observe and try and identify animals found in a freshwater habitat. • Learners will have opportunity to (briefly) take care of animals from the local environment and return them safely after study.
Duration	Age/class dependent, usually 45 minutes works well
Resources required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterproof plasters/gloves (we advise cuts and grazes are covered) • Pond dipping trays • Pond dipping nets • Desert spoons* • Magnifying glasses* • ID sheets and/or books* <p>*Non-essential resources but could enhance the activities</p>
What time of year?	We would recommend March to September. The area will be more slippery after rain.
Where in the park?	Within the woodland area (A4) there is a specific pond dipping platform along part of the stream. There is also an interpretation board which can hold pond dipping trays and provides pictures and information on some of the most common animals most likely to be found.
What to do	<p>Ensure all open cuts and grazes are covered (waterproof plasters or gloves).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Partially fill each pond dipping tray with about 2-3cm of pond water, trying not to include any mud. We would recommend the adults do this. 2. Place the trays away from the water's edge so they do not become a trip hazard.

For more information

Tel: 01543 308867 Email: parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk

www.lichfieldhistoricparks.co.uk



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<p>What to do continued</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Sweep nets in a figure-of-8 shape in the water, trying not to get more than a spoonful amount of mud/sediment. This is because the mud/sediment is both heavy for the net (may break them) and will cloud the water for a long time when trying to identify the catch. Sweeping near aquatic plants often gives good results. 4. After a good sweep, bring the net out of the water and towards the tray (making sure the long handle of the net does not spear or trip anyone over). 5. Turn nets inside out into the tray and swill about to remove anything caught. 6. Let the water and any mud settle and use the ID sheet and/or interpretation board to see what has been caught. 7. Spoons can be used to carefully pick up any animal caught to enable closer inspection and easier identification. 8. At the end of the session, please ensure all trays and nets are carefully emptied and swilled to ensure all animals are returned to the water. 9. Wash hands before eating or drinking.
<p>Extension activities</p>	<p>You could try these:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observing the behaviour of any animals caught. • Research some of the animals caught back in the classroom to find out more about them e.g. lifecycles, feeding habits or behaviours. • Try pond dipping at different times of the year and comparing results.
<p>Risk assessment</p>	<p>See separate document. For guidance only. Teachers are advised to carry out their own risk assessments prior to any activities.</p>
<p>Useful printouts</p>	<p>Pond dipping risk assessment School visit useful information and map</p>
<p>Notes</p>	<p>Contact parks@lichfielddc.gov.uk for further details</p>
<p>Related activities</p>	<p>See: Bug hunting for self-led groups</p>

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