

Pond Dipping Activity Guide

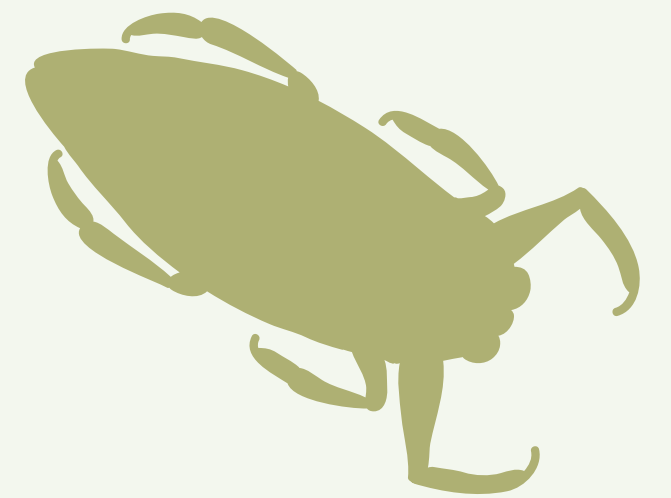


What is pond dipping?

Pond dipping is a great way for kids to discover the magical creatures lurking beneath the surface of their local pond and it's easy to do! A pond is home to many creatures, such as macro-benthic invertebrates. Make sure you pond dip throughout Spring-Fall to see how the variety of species changes depending on the time of year!

What you will need?

- A pond net
- A pond tray (a white or clear bucket or containers)
- A magnifying glass (optional)
- Spoons, pipettes, ice cube tray and/or turkey basters (optional)
- Identification sheet or book (really helpful – **see our free printable from Ducks Unlimited**)



Procedure:

Step 1: Gather your supplies and **find a pond!** If your pond is healthy, there will be a greater variety of species!

Step 2: Staying close to the **edge of the water**, fill your pond tray with pond water about halfway full.

Step 3: Dip your net into the water and run it along the **water's floor** to gather the bugs. If you are having trouble finding bugs, try dipping near vegetation.

Step 4: Quickly and **carefully** turn out the net full of bugs into your pond tray and use your tools to identify and observe the different species.

Step 5: **Gently** return the creatures to their home by tipping your tray into the water.

