













Build a mini wildlife pond


Educator Notes

Age				
Early Years	4-7	8-12	12-15	16+
				

Time				
> 10 mins	> 30 mins	> 60 mins	> 2 hours	Long term
				

Season				
All year	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter
				

Curriculum Links	
Expressive Arts	
Health & Wellbeing	
Literacy & English	
Mathematics	
Sciences	
Social Studies	
Technologies	

Location		
Indoors	Outdoors	Either
		

Equipment list
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An old bucket or watertight container • Spade • Sand • Old bricks, rocks or pebbles • Native pondweed or other pond plants

Instructions
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose an ideal spot. Your pond will want light, but not full sunlight all day. Dig a hole deep enough to sink your container (unless you choose to place your container above ground). 2. Remove any sharp rocks and line the bottom of the hole with sand. 3. Place the bucket into the hole, filling in any gaps around the edges with soil. 4. Add a layer of bricks or rocks. Use logs or stones to create a range of depths and a slope for creatures to climb in and out. If your container is above ground, you'll need to create a ramp. 5. Fill the bucket with rainwater (not tap water – this contains chemicals). 6. Start adding some pond plants! You only need one or two plants. Great plants for small ponds include miniature waterlily, lesser spearwort, starwort, and flowering rush. 7. Over the next few weeks, check your pond regularly to see if it needs topping up. Sit and watch as wildlife comes to your pond (you can use the pond life spotter sheet). Don't introduce frogs, fish or even water from another pond as this can spread disease.








How to build a mini wildlife pond

wildlife
watch



You will need:

- an old bucket or watertight container 
- spade 
- sand 
- old bricks, rocks and pebbles 
- native pondweed (eg. curled pondweed) 

- 1 Dig a hole deep enough to hold your container.
- 2 Remove any sharp rocks and line bottom with sand.
- 3 Sit the container in the hole and fill the gaps with loose soil.
- 4 Build a pile of rocks and bricks in bottom, scatter pebbles and add pondweed. Fill with rainwater.

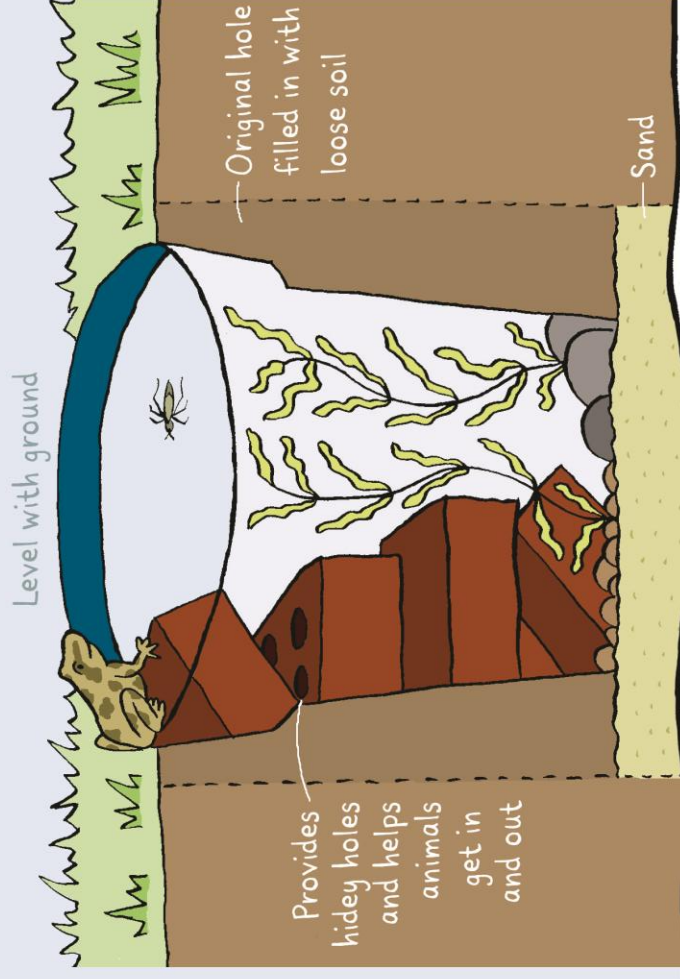


Illustration: Corinne Welch © Copyright Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts 2015

Pond wildlife detective



wildlife watch



Common frog



Water lily



Pond skater



Yellow flag



Smooth newt



Common blue damselfly



Water measurer



Common toad



Common hawkler



Water crowfoot

Credits: Common frog (c) Jim Higham / Pond skater (c) Amy Lewis / Common toad (c) Common toad (c) Philp Preedy / Common toad (c) Joy Russell / Common hawkler (c) Neil Wyatt / Water measurer (c) Dr Malcolm Storey & Water crowfoot (c) Philp Preedy / Pond skater (c) Amy Lewis / Common toad (c) Common toad (c) Philp Preedy / Common toad (c) Joy Russell / Common hawkler (c) Neil Wyatt / Water measurer (c) Dr Malcolm Storey & Smooth newt