



**School Program Name:** Pondering Ponds  
**Name of Sanctuary:** Stony Brook  
**Grade Level:** PreK-2  
**Location Options:** At sanctuary  
**Time:** 2 hours  
**For more info:** [stonybrook@massaudubon.org](mailto:stonybrook@massaudubon.org) or  
508-528-3140

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### Program Description

Students visit a pond to observe, collect, and study organisms in their natural habitat.

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### Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

**Framework:** Science and Technology  
**Strand:** Life Science  
**Topic:** Characteristics of Living Things  
Living Things and Their Environment

### Learning Standards

#### Characteristics of Living Things

PreK-2 Life Science #1: Recognize that animals (including humans) and plants are living things that grow, reproduce, and need food, air, and water.

PreK-2 Life Science #3: Recognize that plants and animals have life cycles, and that life cycles vary for different living things.

#### Living Things and Their Environment

PreK-2 Life Science #8: Identify the ways in which an organism's habitat provides for its basic needs (plants require air, water, nutrients, and light; animals require food, water, air, and shelter).

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### Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks

**Framework:** English Language Arts  
**Strand:** Language  
**Topic:** Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

### Learning Standards

#### Questioning, Listening, and Contributing

PreK-12 Language #2: Students will pose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute their own information or ideas in group discussions or interviews in order to acquire new knowledge.



### Lesson Objectives

What will students know and be able to do? These objectives must be observable and measurable.

Students will know and be able to:

- Recognize the basic characteristics and features of a pond habitat.
- Recognize the variety of plants and animals in a pond and how their basic needs (air, water, food, shelter, space) are met.
- Identify and classify living and non-living things in a pond.
- Describe some life cycles within the pond habitat.

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### Vocabulary

organism

pond

habitat

life cycle

adaptation

metamorphosis

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### Assessments

How will you know that the students have met the standards?

- Mass Audubon Educator will observe students exploring, observing, and identifying pond organisms.
- Students will participate in answering Mass Audubon Educator prompted questions about how organisms meet their needs in a pond habitat.

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### Summarizer

How will the Mass Audubon Educator close the lesson to see if students met the objectives?

- Students will create a list of what organisms were seen by all study groups and will participate in answering Mass Audubon Educator prompted questions about how organisms meet their needs in a pond habitat.



## Mass Audubon School Programs

At Mass Audubon we strive to create learning experiences that are enriching, innovative, meaningful, and engaging. All our school programs are aligned with Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks. Our network of wildlife sanctuaries and nature centers located in urban, suburban, and rural communities around the state enable us to have strong relationships with local schools.

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## Our Education Foundations

- Place-based education is an educational philosophy that connects learning to what is local for an individual. We help build conservation communities, working with students and teachers in cities and towns to develop place-based environmental education that is linked directly to their home community.
  - Inquiry-based learning is focused on teamwork, being learner-centered, questioning ourselves and the world around us, providing a more focused, time-intensive exploration, promoting lifelong learning, communication, and learning as fun.
  - We are fully committed to creating a positive and supportive environment for all learners.
  - We strive to be culturally sensitive, recognizing and embracing cultural differences.
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## Differentiated Instruction

- We strive to create a positive learning environment that is inclusive, supportive to all learners, and sensitive to cultural diversity.
  - Outdoor classroom experiences are structured to meet the needs of the particular learners.
  - Students work in small groups using hands-on materials.
  - A variety of educational media are used, including colorful illustrations.
  - With advance notice, efforts will be made to accommodate all learning styles and physical needs.
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## Notes

- Nature exploration is dependent upon the weather and other conditions. A class might observe different wildlife than they expected to see. An outdoor lesson can sometimes provide unexpected, but enriching teachable moments on a natural history topic that was not planned.
- Mass Audubon nature centers each have a unique landscape and will customize programs to work best at their particular site.
- Our lessons can be adapted to incorporate a classroom teacher's needs.

