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Opening extract from  
**Let's Look in Ponds & Rivers**

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# LET'S LOOK IN PONDS & RIVERS



## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

Ponds and rivers come to life in the spring when the weather warms up. They are wonderful places to sit and watch wildlife – but never go too close to the water's edge and always stay with an adult. Use this guide to...



...read about the world of ponds and rivers and discover what is so amazing about them.



...take outside with you to see what you can find and identify, then tick off the things you see.



...have fun playing with the stickers on the fold-out pond-and-river play scene at the back.

# Easy to spot

Most of these plants and animals are easiest to spot in the spring or summer.

Canada goose



pond skater



common frog



willow



damsel fly



great reedmace



bird's nest



marsh marigold



mare's tail



pond snail



dragonfly



goldfish



crane fly



mayfly



yellow iris



mallards



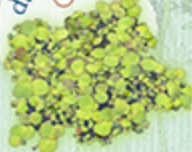
water boatman



heron



duckweed



common reed



Tick them off as you find them.

# Life cycle of a frog

See how a frog changes as it grows from an egg into an adult. This process of changing states is called metamorphosis.



1. A female frog lays its eggs in water.



2. Each egg has jelly around it to protect it.

FROM  
EGG TO  
FROG

4. Each tadpole grows back legs, then front legs.



3. After two weeks, the eggs turn into tadpoles.



5. The tail shortens and then disappears.



# Waterbirds

Look at the feet and beaks of waterbirds. Many have skin between their toes to help them swim, and their beaks are often flat to help sift the water for food.

## Coots

These black birds have large, grey feet. The males use them for fighting.



## Swans

Swans are one of the largest of all waterbirds. Their grey chicks are called cygnets.



## Moorhens

They look like coots, but they are slightly smaller and have red beaks.



## Mandarins

These colourful ducks come from China. The male is much brighter than the female.



## Tufted ducks

If a duck has yellow eyes and a feathery tuft, it is likely to be one of these!



## Great crested grebes

Watch these birds dive for food, then guess where they are going to reappear.

