



HABITAT: BROOKS/POND  
ACTIVITY: POND-DIPPING

Name .....

### **GUIDELINES FOR POND-DIPPING**

This activity involves discovering the life in two different water habitats. The aim is to discover the life in the brooks and the life in the stream, and why the two activities are different (if at all) and how this has come about.

Basic equipment needed:

- pond life identification book
- nets (fine mesh)
- white bowls for viewing
- bug boxes/ magnifiers
- water- quality test kits

Guidelines for pond-dipping:

1. Approach the water stealthily as you are likely to disturb the wild life around the edges e.g. frogs
2. Note the vegetation surrounding the brook, and see whether wildlife is visible straightaway e.g. dragonflies
3. Think about the condition of the water. How does it look and smell? Colour, murky or clear?
4. Think about where the water in the brook comes from; is it flowing or still? You can test the water quality i.e. PH value and nutrient level.
5. Fill your bowl with some water and place away from the edge for viewing purposes.
6. First of all, take out a bit of weed or algae if there is any. Note the creatures amongst it. You can put a bit in your bowl but not so much that it may obscure some creatures.
7. Then dip the net, just breaking the surface and dip shallow. Put specimens into bowl. Look carefully at what you have using a book to identify anything you are unsure about . Make a note of it.
8. Dip into deeper water and place specimen in bowl. Identify and note anything found.
9. Repeat the process dipping into a bit of mud.
10. Look at how each creature moves and find out more about its behaviour from ID books.
11. Return everything to the water as soon as possible.
12. Move onto the next area and repeat the process. When dipping in a shallow stream stand in the middle with the net held downstream facing you. Kick up the stones or mud to send anything on the bottom into your net. Compare the two collections.

This activity idea has been provided by the Lewes Railway Land Ranger, Lewes District Council. For further details see [Centres and Sites to Visit](#) in the **Resources** section.

