

A POND WITH A VIEW

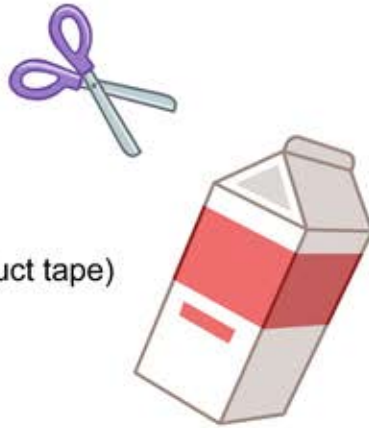
DIFFICULTY: EASY

While there is action all around a pond, what do you think is happening *in* the water? Ponds are filled with animal and plant life that have special qualities that help them spend all or most of their lives underwater. Make this pond viewer to bring on your next pond exploration!



MATERIALS

- One-half gallon milk carton
- Scissors
- Waterproof, strong tape (e.g. duct tape) or a sturdy rubber band
- Heavy, clear plastic wrap



LET'S MAKE A POND VIEWER!

- 1** Have an adult cut off the very top of the milk carton and the very bottom to create a rectangular tube.
- 2** Tear off a sheet of plastic wrap and place it over one of the open ends. Fold down the plastic wrap... make sure wrap is smooth and tight for clear viewing.
- 3** Using the tape or the rubber band, secure the plastic wrap in place. Keep the plastic wrap as tight as possible so you have a flat viewing surface.



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A tadpole with its legs coming in! The long stem of a lily pad! A fish with whiskers! Oh the wonders that live beneath the surface of a pond. Let's see what you can find with your very own pond viewer!

 **LET'S MAKE A POND VIEWER!**

 **POND VIEWING TIPS**

 **LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK**



POND VIEWING TIPS

- 1** Splashing and stirring up mud will make it difficult to see into the pond. Be as still as possible when using your viewer.
- 2** Despite what NatureCat says, it is noble and fun to get wet! If the shoreline is murky, slowly wade out to your knees before using your viewer where it may be less murky.
- 3** Other ways to view: on a dock, over the side of a canoe, or in a stream, lake or tide pool!



LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

Describe a plant or animal that you see. Draw a picture of it, and ask an adult to help you identify and label your picture.

