

Nature 2 U (On-Site or Outreach Program) – Poking in the Pond:

Nature Exploration

Topics covered: Ponds are rich habitats that support a diversity of life. Discover who lives in and around the pond – and how they survive in their watery world. Learn which animals live in the pond as kids and who spends their whole life underwater.

Ages: PK – 8th

Purchase Details: \$6 per student

Programs can be reserved by phone: 901-636-2221

Tuesday - Friday, sessions by appointment

Objectives:

1. Distinguish between amphibians and reptiles who live in or around ponds.
2. Explore aquatic animal anatomical adaptations.
3. Meet live animals and observe wildlife artifacts.

Vocabulary: adjusted for specific grade levels

adaptations	invertebrate
metamorphosis	tadpole
bioindicator	waterfowl
ecosystem	runoff
aquatic	banks
ectothermic	forage
vertebrate	

Fun Facts:

- Ponds can be a habitat for all types of animals: insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.
- Vernal ponds are not permanent year-round. They dry up for part of the year and are typically at their deepest during the springtime. These ponds don't have fish in them, so they provide amphibians and other species a safe place without the worry of being eaten by fish.
- Since turtles are ectothermic (cold-blooded), you'll likely see aquatic turtles, like red eared sliders, "basking" on rocks or logs around ponds. Basking is a way for the turtle to absorb UV rays and warm their body temperature.

Web Resources:

Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency – www.tn.gov/twra.html

Tennessee Wildlife Federation – www.tnwf.org

Exhibit Information at Lichterman Nature Center – www.memphismuseums.org/lichterman-nature-center/

Water on Wheels (University of Memphis) – <https://caeser.memphis.edu/resources/education/>

Where: Lichterman Nature Center Amphitheater or classrooms

When: Year-round, Tuesday – Friday, sessions by appointment

- **Standards:**
 - **(Grade Level)** PK - 8
- **Tennessee: (Life Science)**
 - LS (1-4), ETS2
- **Mississippi: (Life Science)**
 - L (1-4), E (9-10)
- **Arkansas**
 - LS 1, 2, 3, 4