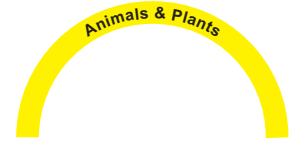




Find out more about a Pond Creature



Learning Intention

- Learn about the variety of creatures that can be found.

National Curriculum Skills

Science The environmental factors that affect what grows and lives in those 2 environments.

ICT Use ICT to further their understanding of information they have retrieved and gathered.

ESDGC The natural environment.

Activity Outline

- * Research a pond creature.
- * Sequence information to make a report.
- * Create a class list of animals.
- * Use books and website sources.
- * Encourage pupils to give a group oral report of one creature.

Resources

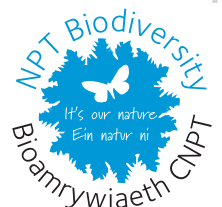
Research materials, a range of books from the school library, local library or E.L.R.S

A range of websites - do a 'google' search to find suitable websites before hand

The blank oral report frame (from the *resources* folder)

Creature Feature

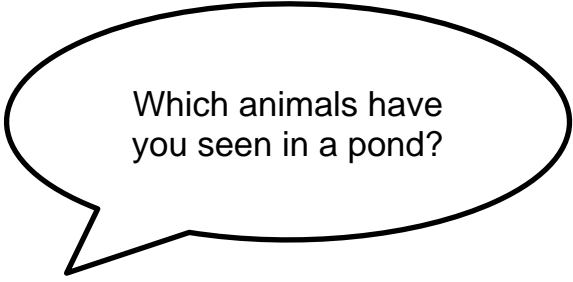
Templates



Find out more about a Pond Creature

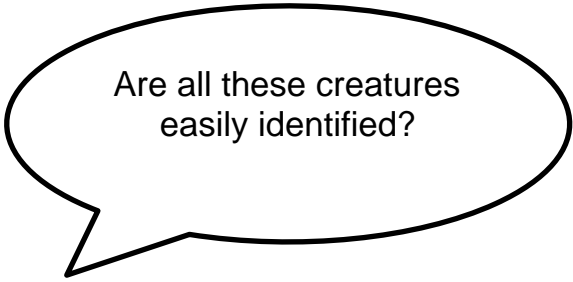
Lesson Outline

- Create a class list of animals the class know live in ponds.
- Read over the creature feature, then get the children to order the information using the template provided.

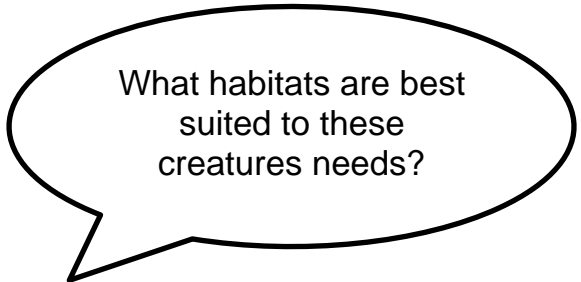


Which animals have you seen in a pond?

- Ask the class, in pairs or small groups, to use the model information to create a profile of a different creature from the class list.
- Using reference books/ internet search engines, they research their chosen creature, finding out -
 - the kind of pond habitat it would live in
 - the food it eats and any natural predators
 - any adaptations it has to suit its environment
 - the type of conditions it needs to survive.
- They then create a pond creature profile, either using the template provided or by designing their own.
- Once the pupils have completed their creature profiles, discuss what they have found out, did they find any threats that the animals face?



Are all these creatures easily identified?



What habitats are best suited to these creatures needs?

The grass snake is also known as the Ringed Snake or Water Snake, and by the latin name *Natrix natrix*.

Grass snakes are found throughout England and Wales but is almost absent from Scotland. It is never found in Ireland, which has no snakes.

Typical grass snake colouring varies between olive green/brown with vertical black stripes or rings. Entirely black animals are sometimes found.

The snake is a hunt/ambush predator, consuming the prey live without using physical constriction.

It is the largest land based reptile in south Wales.

Creature Feature
**The
Grass
Snake**

Grass snakes have pale olive green eyes with round black pupils.

Females lay eggs during June or July, seeking out heat generating spots such as heaps of wood chip, vegetation or manure to do so, and commonly make use of compost heaps. Baby grass snakes appear from mid August onwards.

Grass snakes usually grow to between 65 and 80 cm in length, although the record in Britain was 180cm

The grass snake always has a yellowish 'collar' around the back of its neck.

The snakes hibernate over winter, usually underground such as in disused rabbit burrows.

Grass snakes, like all reptiles, are cold-blooded. This means that they rely on external sources of heat like the sun or rotting vegetation to warm up.

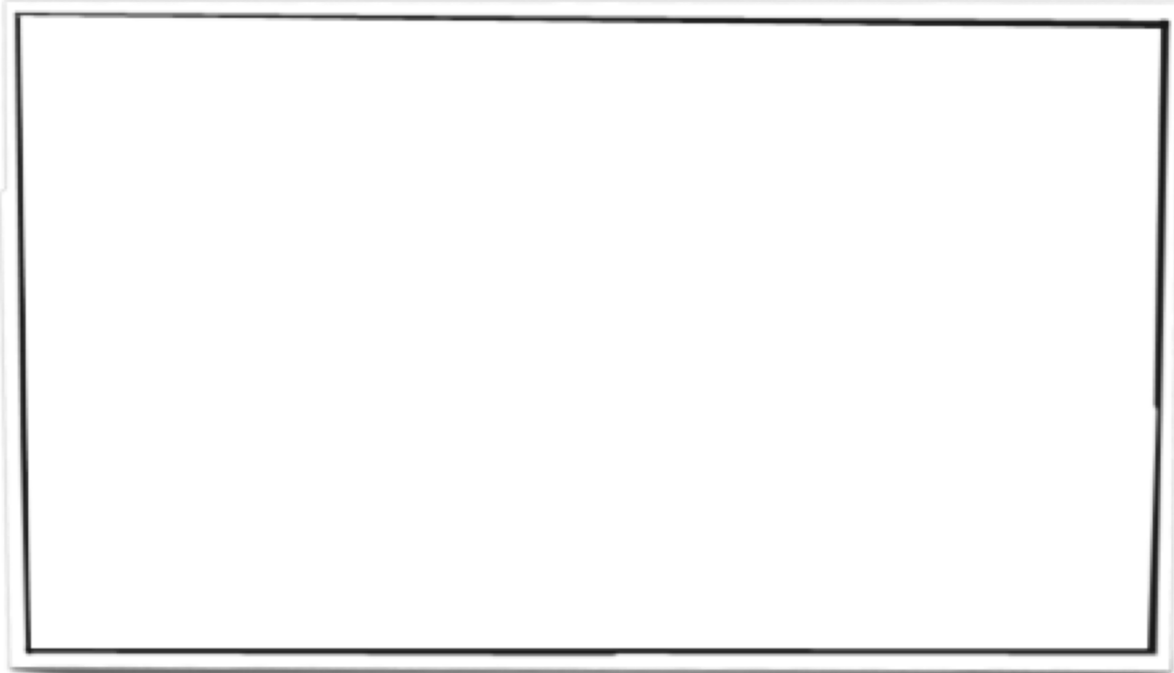
The grass snake is not venomous. Its only defence is to release a smelly liquid and/or playing dead. They rarely bite and will only do so as a very last resort.

Providing much needed undisturbed egg laying and hibernation sites is one easy way to help grass snakes

Females lay between 8 and 40 eggs in June or July. The eggs need to remain at a temperature of at least 21° C and hatch after around 10 weeks.

Grass snakes feed chiefly on amphibians and small fish and are often found close to fresh water. They are good swimmers.

The Grass Snake



Description

Size

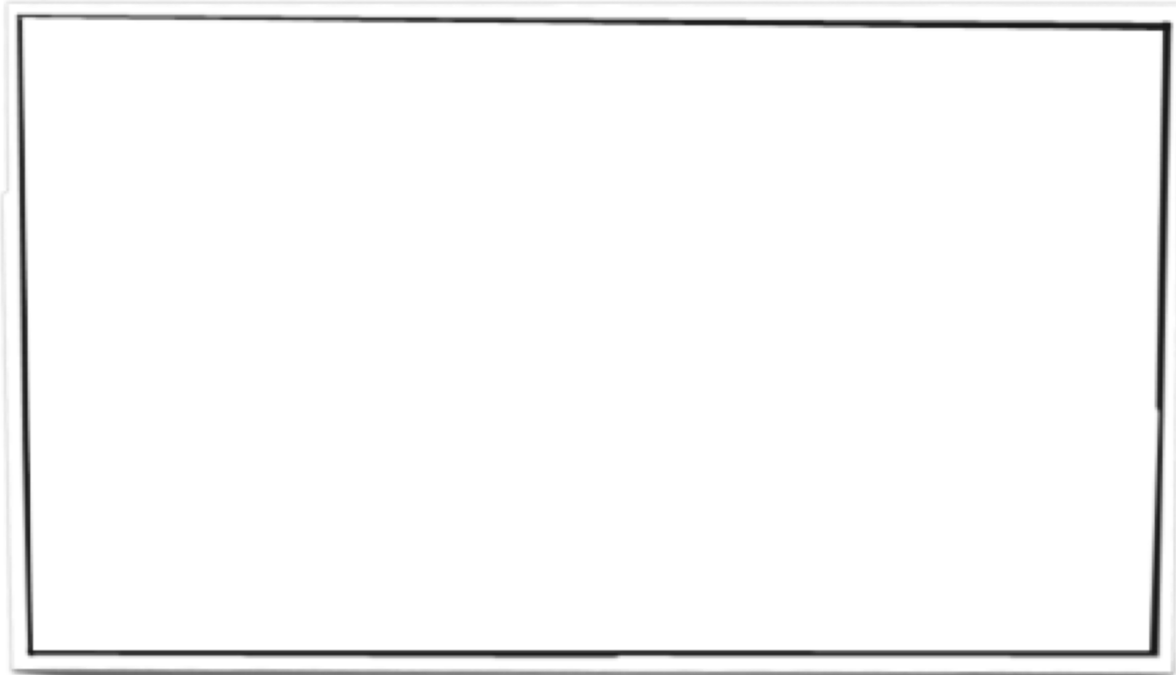
Habitat

Diet

Breeding

Additional Information

The _____



Description

Size

Habitat

Diet

Breeding

Additional Information