

Things One Sees In A Pond Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four -Year Olds, 2007

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus, but they are not the only objectives being utilized by the following lessons. Language and social goals are incorporated into our classroom daily routines.

I. Virginia Science Foundation Block 1: Scientific Investigation, Reasoning and Logic (pg. 25)

*The child will make observations, separate objects into groups based on similar attributes, develop questions based upon observations using the five senses.

II. Concept to Teach:

- **Different animals live on, in or near a pond**
 - turtles
 - beavers
 - ducks
 - frogs
 - toads
 - dragonflies
 - birds,
 - water bugs
 - crayfish
 - fish
- **That animals need water, shelter and food to live**
- **Some animals live in the pond water**
- **Flowers like lily pads, and cattails**
- **Another name for a pond is marsh**
- **People play and swim in the water**

I learn concepts about each animal I teach:

There will be fact/concepts books for the following animals: turtles, ducks, beavers and frogs I teach about dragonflies when I teach about "insects" in the Things One Sees In the Grass unit.

III. Books that Can Be Read:

A. Books that I own:

- Jump Frog Jump by Robert Kalan
- In The Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming
- Life In A Pond by Carmelita Klipple Robinson and Gordon Burks with Irving A. Leitner
- The Tadpole and the Frog : A Book Without Words by Susan Knobler
- Tadpole and Frog by Christine Back and Barrie Watts
- Fast Frog by Ahlberg and Eric Hill
- The Tale of Jeremy Fisher by Beatrix Potter
- Days with Frog and Toad but Arnold Lobel
- The Ugly Duckling
- The Funny Baby by Margaret Hillert
- Make Way For Ducklings by Robert Mc Closkey
- Franklin Stories by Paulette Bourgeois
- What Is A Turtle? by Gene Darby
- The Wide Mouthed Frog by Rex Schneider
- Zoobooks: Insects Volume 1 by Wildlife Education, LTD
- Zoobooks: Insects Volume 2 by Wildlife Education, LTD
- Zoobooks: Turtles by Wildlife Education , LTD
- Zoobooks: Ducks, Geese and Swans by Wildlife Education, LTD

2. Recommended Books to Read:

- Frog In The Middle by Susanna Gertz
- I Took My Frog to the Library by Eric A. Kimmel
- Frog in Love by Max Velthuijs translated by Anthea Bell
- Friend or Frog by Marjorie Priceman
- Hop Jump by Ellen S. Walsh
- Tree Frogs by Sylvia A. Johnson
- Frog and Toad Watching by David Webster
- Frog On His Own by Mercer Mayer
- Frog Goes To Dinner by Mercer Mayer

IV. Activities:

1. Pond Life and Insects

- Go on a field trip to a pond if possible
- Make a class mural :
 - Use blue bulletin board paper shaped like a pond, this can be done on bulletin board or on a wall. Mine will be displayed outside the room in the pod play area
 - Make cattails (cut out a sponge in the shape of a long oval) sponge paint brown, add paper stems and leaves. I bring my cattails in from home for the children to look at.
 - Lily Pad and Flowers: Make lily pad and lily flowers to float on the water, Take a basket coffee filter. fold it into fourths then cut it rounded. See sample in Activity Section.
 - Pond Animals: Add in different pond animals as you teach the children about the pond
 - Who Lives Here Game: Preschool Mailbox; April/May, 2008 issue Xerox animal card, or make a variety of cards your self with clip art Have the children put the animals that belong on a glue laminated sheet of paper. I put Velcro on mine so the children can match. Also I do another Habitat so they can choose where the animal lives: in the Barn or Pond?

2. Pond Animal Life:

- Fish
 - Set up a fishing area: I used a small wading pool and we use fishing poles with magnets on the ends for catching our fish. Fish had magnets on them
 - Cracker Fish: Make a pond with blue paper add in gold fish crackers
 - Fried Fish in a Skillet: Make an outline of a fish (I print the fish with my fake fish) on a paper outline of a black cast iron skillet.
 - Let the children draw whiskers on a paper fish outline for catfish: color the fish and put it on the mural or in the fishing pond to catch
- Beaver
 - Beaver Lodge: fold a paper plate in half. Sponge paints it brown. Add either real twigs (small ones) or pretzels to make the lodge. Cut out a small round circle at the bottom for the entrance to lodge, add in a paper beaver. Place on mural or Display in the room
 - Color a beaver: www.EnchantedLearning.com has wonderful pictures that the children can color.

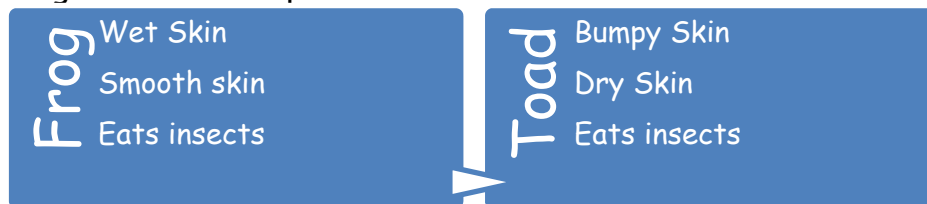
IV. Activities Continued

- Beaver
 - Busy As A Beaver: Beaver's work hard , Have the children clean up like little beavers
 - Turtle
 - Turtle in the shell:
 1. Take either a small or large paper plate and fold it in half.
 2. Children can thumbprint on the shell or use bubble wrap to print the shell
 3. Add paper legs, head and tail
 - Sock Puppet:
 1. Use either a green, grey or brown knee sock
 2. Add wiggle eyes (Teacher hot glue's this on)
 3. Children decorate a salad plate with bubble wrap print : teacher hot glues this on the sock for children
 - Play dough Turtle; Have the children roll out a turtle shell with green play dough. add on yellow dots and let dry until hard.
- You may need to make your own play dough since the store bought kind may not dry out. Either way is loads of fun for the children.
- Franklin the Turtle color sheets are on this website:
<http://www.kidscolorpages.com/franklinturtle.htm>
 - Make a Turtle Math Number Book:
 1. Make the turtle like you did in *Turtle in the Shell*.
 2. Add in more paper plate up to how far you want the kids to count. I typically do up to 5 or 10
 3. Children thumbprint the number of times on the shell to match the numeral written on the page...
 4. Teacher can write the number on each page , dot to dot the number or if the child is able to write the number their self
 - Make 3 D Turtle:
 1. Color or paint a paper bowl: I would sponge paint the bowl either brown or green ,
 2. After it dries either thumb print or bubble wrap print it in another color like yellow if shell is brown or green or use brown depending on what the shell is painted.
 3. Hot glue shell bowl (teacher does this) onto cardstock paper or felt

IV. Activities Continued:

- Turtle:
 - 4. Add in the head, legs, and tail - ready for racing?
- Duck
 - Duck on a nest: Make a nest with shredded wheat, add a paper duck or make a duck out of yellow or white clay or play dough , add a orange bill and webbed fee
 - Duck between the marsh grass or cattail reeds: (Preschool Mailbox, Apr/May, 2008)
 1. Paint the paper blue,
 2. Add in brown for the shore line
 3. Add a paper duck in the middle
 4. Cut green paper in long strips and glue it on or add them while the paint is still wet.
 - Ducks on a pond: make an outline of ducks and have the children cover it with feathers - add your ducks to the mural
 - Duck with a fish: Have a duck outline, if white add an orange paper bill and webbed feet: Add a sponge painted fish to the bill for the duck to eat.
 - Waddle like a duck: Pretend to be ducks and waddle back and forth to music
 - Sing : The *Six Little Ducks* by Raffi or the *Five Little Ducks* by Raffi Make finger puppets or use rubber ducks for props when you sing the songs.

- Frog and Toads
 - Frog and Toad Comparisons



- Bring various objects for children to feel so they can see how toads and frog are different if you don't have real ones to show.

Examples can be:

Frog:
jello blocks
carpet
banana

Toad
a bumpy dried gourd
burlap
tree bark

IV. Activities Continued:

*Frog and Toad

- Frog and Toad puppets (see samples in activity pages)
- Color Frog and Toad Pictures

Website for online interactive games:

<http://allaboutfrogs.org/funstuff/java/index.html>

- Make a toad life cycle (see sample section)
- Make a frog life cycle (see sample section)
- Frog eggs: Bring in egg whites and add peppercorns : have the children feel if they want to or aren't tactile defensive
Have baby wipes handy to wash off those little fingers before they go into their mouth.
- Tadpole Pail: Make an outline of a pail and sponge paint or draw on tadpoles
- Make various frogs from color sheets or green paper or paint green frogs
- Sequence Activities for Jump Frog Jump : see samples
- Large and small frogs : color sheet
- 2 Pond Books by Preschool Mailbox
1 in Apr/May 1997 and 1 in Apr/May, 2008

V. Food

1. Make a fruit friendship salad. Each student brings in something to share
2. Frog Float: paper cups, lime sherbet, Sprite, or 7-Up, miniature marshmallows or mm's Put 1 scoop of sherbet in a cup, add Sprite or soda, Add marshmallows for frog eyes. Enjoy