

Over and Under the Pond

Written by Kate Messner and illustrated by Silas Neal

Activities:

After reading the story, have students create a diorama of over and under a pond.

Create a collage with lily pads, cattails and reeds.

Talk about perspective. Create a picture looking up or down. Or take photos with different perspectives.

Look at reflections in the water.

How do whirligig beetles stay on top of the water? Discuss surface tension. Do experiments with surface tension. Do experiments with different objects that float or sink.

Build a nest with grasses and yarn.

Talk about life cycles of frogs or caddisflies.

Classify animals in the book. Which ones are mammals? (Moose, beaver, river otter, raccoon, mink) Insects? (Dragonfly, whirligig beetle, caddisfly) Birds? (Red wing blackbird, goldfinch, woodpecker, heron, osprey, loon) Reptiles (Turtle), Amphibians (Frog) Fish (Minnow, brook trout), Crustaceans (Crayfish), Mollusks(Mussel)

Talk about ecosystems. Which animals in the book are herbivores? Which are carnivores?

Write a poem about a pond.

Create a pattern for a turtle shell.

Talk about pollution and what students can do to be keepers of the earth.

Is the minnow in the book life size? (Adult minnows are about 5cm.) Measure them. Which other animals in the book would be life size?

Visit www.katemessner.com/writers for writing advice.

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