

POND ECOSYSTEM

READER



Click into the reader to answer questions. (Open link in a new tab.) 1.How do plants help pond animals?

2. How are frogs and toads adapted to living in a pond?

3. What features help the whirligig beetle live on the surface of a pond?

4. Why do some insects, like dragonflies, live underwater as nymphs and above water as adults?

Click here for free resources on food chains and webs.

POND ECOSYSTEM

ANSWER KEY:

1.Plants provide food, oxygen, and shelter for pond animals. Animals get energy directly by eating plants or by eating other animals that eat plants.

2. Frogs and toads can breathe both in and out of water. They hatch from eggs as tadpoles and gradually develop legs and lungs. As adults, they eat insects, snails, and small pond animals.

3. The whirligig beetle has antennae to find prey and divided eyes to see in different directions. This helps it hunt insects on the pond surface.

4. The pond provides food and shelter for the nymphs to grow safely. As flying adults they can reproduce and lay eggs back in the pond. The different stages are adapted to different habitats.

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READER ANSWER KEY - WHAT DID YOU LEARN?

 If one part of the food web disappears, the whole web is affected. The other organisms that relied on that part for food or shelter lose an important resource.
The whirligig beetle has adapted with antennae to help it find prey and eyes divided into two parts so it can see in different

prey and eyes divided into two parts so it can see in differe directions to catch insects to eat. 3.Newt tadpoles keep their gills even after their legs develop, unlike frog and toad tadpoles.

5. If there were no cattails, the muskrat would lose an important food source and material to build its lodge. The muskrat population might decline or disappear without cattails at the pond.





Down:		Acr
1.	a living thing that eats the remains of	2.
	plants and animals	3.
5.	the form of certain young insects	
		4.

ross:

- a living thing that only eats plants
- a living thing that eats both plants and animals
- a living thing formed of separate parts
- which work together to carry on the
- processes of life
- 6. active at night
- 7. a living thing that only eats other animals





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