

Catching Mini-bugs

Focus

Use this dip net to explore ponds and wetlands. Sweep the net through the water and then empty its contents into an ice cream container filled with pond water. Make sure to return the pond water and creatures to their homes.

a) Make your own dip net

Material

- 1 wire coat hanger
- needle and thread
- a stick or rod
- one pair of pantyhose
- a length of string

Preparation

- Shape the coat hanger into a rough square.
- Cut off the legs of the pantyhose just below the knee and tie the legs together.
- Push the coat hanger into the top of the pantyhose and then pass the knot through to the other side. This will prevent mini-beasts from getting stuck underneath the tip of the pantyhose. You may need to sew the tops of the pantyhose to the coat hanger.
- Tie the coat hanger to the stick using the string.
- Add an extension arm to the scoop (tent pole or light broom handle) for difficult access or deeper creeks and rivers.

b) Using your dip net

Materials

- Ice cream container
- Clear plastic bottles with lids
- White plastic trays
- Soft paint brushes
- Camera

Procedure

- Organise an excursion to a local waterway (see contact list of local support personnel)
- Ensure sufficient supervision; protect organisms by keeping them in water and in shade.
- Make sure to return the pond water and creatures to their homes.

NOTE: Take care with soft edges of creek or dam banks for children's' safety and erosion of the bank.

Resources

- Your local Environmental Education Centre