

# POND

# EXPLORER'S GUIDE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

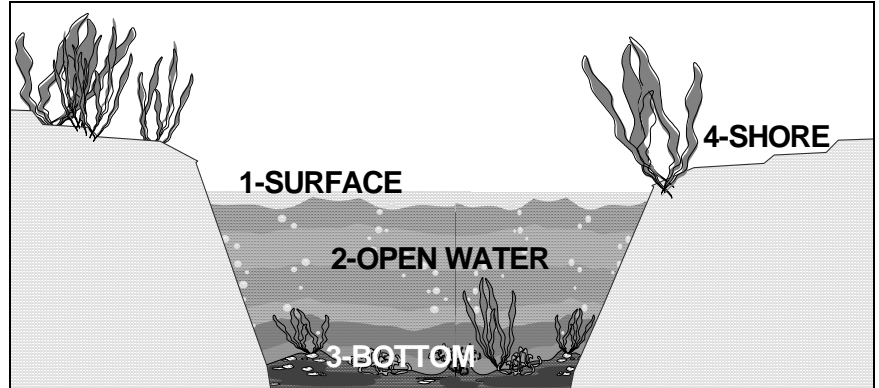
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## CLUES

1. Gather at the Fauntleroy Park entrance and step into the woods under lots of tall trees.
2. When you come to the Y, take the trail to the left and go and go until you come to a big bridge.
3. As you cross, see the swishing, sparkling, bubbling, flowing creek.
4. Like Jack and Jill, go up the hill and take the first right.
5. Walk the quiet trail, then clomp, clomp, along the wooden bridge.
6. Listen and look for the pond and our carved rock on the left where it's soupy.

## IS THIS A POND?

A body of water must have four parts to be a pond. How many parts do you find here? 1 2 3 4



Is the body of water here a pond?  YES  NO

## LOOK AND LISTEN

Be very quiet and look around. What do you see? What do you hear? Circle some of the things that your eyes and ears tell you like to live in and around this special water place.



Created by the four kindergarten classes at Arbor Heights School, Seattle School District, with help from teachers Claudia Stroh and Vicki Golden.

Funded by King County Water and Land Resources.

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Draw something that you want to remember about the pond or this part of the park.

## THE MARKER

### MOVING WATER - MOSSY GROUND - HOPPING FROGS

and the “bowl” shape of this stone remind everyone who sees it of the abundant life that ponds support.

The buzzing “**bugs**” are examples of the many species that depend on this habitat.

The **alevin petro glyph** emphasizes the importance of healthy freshwater habitat to growing salmon and ties this site to other links in the chain of water-based habitats.

*Overall, design and petro glyph detail by Tom Jay*



## POND STEWARDSHIP

A pond habitat is easily upset by natural changes such as drought (which no one can do much about) and by human actions such as polluting the water with fertilizers (which we can *all* do something about). Here are ways you can help protect this pond and the life that depends on it:

- ✓ Stay out of the water.
- ✓ Keep your dog out of the water.
- ✓ Bag pet waste and dispose of it in a trash can.
- ✓ Do not kick dirt into the water.
- ✓ Do not throw anything into the water.
- ✓ Leave the plants around the pond alone.
- ✓ If a parent decides to attend a work party in the park, ask if you can go along.
- ✓ Teach others about the pond.

# POND

# HELPER'S GUIDE

## GETTING THERE

Park on the south side of SW Barton St. at the entrance to Fautleroy Park. By bus, take Metro 54 to the entrance, where the clues begin. To combine a visit to the pond with a stop at the wetland, use the big bridge as your reference point.

## PREPARATIONS

1. Preview what you will be doing on this field trip, go over the "Explorer's Guide," and answer any questions.
2. Provide adults with these supplies for each child assigned to them:
  - a copy of the "Explorer's Guide" for this site
  - a pencil
  - a clipboard or heavy cardboard for support.

## SEASON AND SAFETY

Visit this site during fall, winter, or spring when the water level in the pond will be at its highest. Advise children to dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes or boots. If it's raining or has rained recently, they might get muddy.

For safety and to help youngsters focus in a very stimulating setting, we suggest **one adult for every three children, kindergarten through second grade.**

## APPROXIMATE TIME

Walk in: **20 minutes**

At the pond: **30 minutes**

Walk back to entrance: **15 minutes**

At this site, young "explorers" will

- learn what a pond is.
- see the parts of a pond habitat.
- begin to understand the pond's role in riparian habitat.
- see what types of plants grow in and around a pond.
- consider what animals might live in a pond.
- learn how to help take care of ponds.

## MAKING THE MOST OF THE FIELD TRIP

If you have a large group, divide into adult-led teams to help youngsters focus on the activities and encourage development of observation skills.

Within reason, let teams walk to and from the pond at their own pace to encourage observing. In the spring, look for fuchsia salmonberry blossoms, the bright yellow capes of skunk cabbage, and white trillium. In the fall, look for multi-colored salmonberries, red or black (evergreen) huckleberries, and other native seeds.

Read the instructions in the children's "Explorer's Guide" for identifying the parts of a pond, then the instructions for seeing and hearing things that live in and near the pond. Prompt children to apply logic to their selections and to look for any evidence of animals that may not be present when you are at the pond. Encourage them to focus on drawing something that really interests them.

## OTHER TIPS

- Ask youngsters to watch and listen carefully in order to follow the clues you will be reading to them.
- Remind them to stay on the path so no one steps on plants by mistake.
- Point out that volunteers are helping city workers take care of the park – pulling out plants such as ivy that try to smother good plants, planting trees, and reporting hazards.
- When you get to the pond, pause a moment and ask youngsters to stop talking in order to observe the area's natural smells and sounds.
- Use your hand or a stick to brush moss off the marker so that youngsters can see the images on it.