

Pond: A Freshwater Home

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If you have ever wondered about what types of animals live in ponds and how they are able to live there, then you are going to enjoy this article.

A **pond** is a body of water that is shallow enough to support rooted plants. Ponds can be created from geological events such as a glaciers or sinkholes. Ponds are shallow holes where water collects. The water temperature of a pond is fairly even from the top to the

bottom, but the temperature changes with the air temperature.

For animals that need a fresh water habitat, a pond is the perfect place. The bottom of a pond is usually covered with mud. Many insects and worms live there. Along the edge of a pond, there are plants that serve as food for pond creatures. Fish love ponds because here they can feed on both plants and insects. A pond is a great home to a bullfrog because it is filled with foods that bullfrogs eat: insects, smaller frogs, small birds and small snakes. Birds and insects also easily adapt to living in a pond because everything they need is there: **food, shelter and protection.**

Now that you know how a pond serves as home to so many different organisms, I also want you to know how sensitive fresh water habitats are. Oil spills that occur in fresh water habitats are often less publicized than oil spills that occur in oceans. But, all oil spills are very dangerous to living things. Smaller organisms, such as worms, insects and shellfish that live in the bottom of ponds, rivers and lakes are severely affected and may die. In the open water, oil is dangerous to frogs, reptiles and fishes. The oil also harms the plants that so many organisms depend on for food and shelter.



Ponds, lakes and rivers are great homes to so many organisms. We should try our best to make sure that these special habitats are protected.