

# American Beaver

## Build a Pond!

### What you need!

- An empty water cooler container, with the lid
- Sand
- Rocks and pebbles
- Wild water (pond or creek water- enough to almost fill the container)
- Aquatic plants
- Water critters (bugs, snails, beetles, crustaceans)



Here's an activity that you can do to create your personal pond ecosystem, right in your very own room. And don't worry! It won't even stink.



### What you do:

1. Pour in about 15 centimeters of clean sand and rocks.
  2. Next pour in your wild water and leave a little air space.
  3. Once your pond is filled with water, add plenty of plants and a few critters then seal it all up. Put your pond in a place where it will get a few hours of sun every day.
- \* (If you can't move around that much water you can fill it up from the tap BUT either let the tap water sit out in a bucket for a day or two, or treat the water with dechlorinator.)

### Ask yourself

- Observe your pond each day and record what you see happening.
- Why do you think the plants and water creatures stay alive in the sealed container?
- What happens to an area when a pond is created?
- What would happen to the wildlife in a pond if a beaver dam was removed or destroyed?

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### What did you find out?

The sunlight, plants, and water bugs in your pond become part of a self-sustaining community of life. The plants will use the energy from the sun to create food from carbon dioxide and the hydrogen in the water. This process returns oxygen to the pond, which supports the pond life. When a beaver builds a dam and creates a pond for its home, it also creates a new habitat for many other plants and animals.

### Specific Learner Expectations (SLE)

**Grade 1 Topic E:** Needs of Animals and Plants.

SLE 6: Identify the requirements of animals to maintain life: i.e., air; food; water; shelter; space; and recognize that we must provide these for animals in our care.

SLE 7: Identify the requirements of plants to maintain life: i.e., air; light; suitable temperature; water; growing medium; space; and recognize that we must provide these for plants in our care.

**Grade 5 Topic E:** Wetland Ecosystems.

SLE 3: Identify some plants and animals found at a wetland site, both in and around the water and describe the life cycles of these plants and animals.

SLE 6: Identify the roles of different organisms in the food web of a pond - producers, consumers, decomposers.