

The Secret Pool

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Habitats, Ecology, Animals, Life Cycles

Book Brief: What's the secret behind the small pools of water that appear during the spring and disappear at the end of summer? This book explores the many creatures that live in or depend on these *vernal pools*.

Author:
Kimberly Ridley

Illustrator:
Rebekah Raye



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Ask children if they know what the author means by the “secret” pool. This story is about a pool that forms in the spring and is quite different from one in which kids might go swimming during the summer!

RELATED ACTIVITIES

EGG, EGG, HATCH! (AGES 5-9)

Have children think of an animal that hatches from an egg. To begin, everyone curls up like an egg. One child moves around tapping the eggs until they get to the one they want to hatch. At this point the child taps and says, “Hatch.” The child who is tapped to hatch must come out of the egg formation and move like the animal he has chosen. See who can guess the animal. Take turns until all “eggs” have hatched.

POOL DIP (AGES 5-12)

Ingredients: blue food coloring, pre-made ranch dip, pretzel sticks, broccoli florets, baby carrots

Mix a couple of drops of blue food coloring in with the ranch dip. Let children use the food

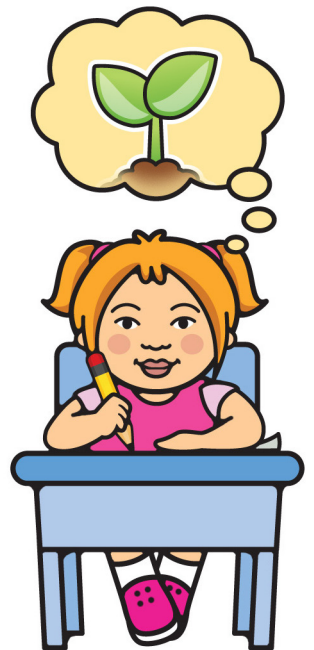


items to simulate objects that would be around the vernal pool in the story (e.g., sticks, trees, and logs).

SIGNS OF SPRING (AGES 5-12)

Materials per child:
notepad, pencil

Take children on a nature walk to record signs of spring. If you live in a low lying area, look for a pool like the one described in the book. If not, what other signs of spring can children find that are similar to those found around the secret pool? Children should record their observations through drawings and descriptive writings in their notepads.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT NATURE

North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration, Nick Dowson (2011)
Big Night for Salamanders, Sarah Marwil Lamstein (2010)
Under the Snow, Melissa Stewart (2009)



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