WATER WONDERS!

Do you have a local pond? Looking at the surface, you might think there's not much wildlife in there. But just below the surface is an underwater world teeming with all kinds of animals – and they can tell you a *lot* about the health of the water they live in…

Get spotting!

To find out about the condition of a pond near you, grab a net, find an adult to go with you, and then see which of these creatures you can spot…

Spotting a caddisfly shows the water is clean!

Cased critters

Caddisflies can be tricky to spot, as they're nocturnal (active at night). But you could find the underwater larvae, which often have a case made of bits of plants. These critters like clean pond water, so it's a great sign if you can see them!

Polluted water bugs this beetle!

Beetle buddies

Water beetles love to live in clean ponds, so you should find lots of species in your net – as long as the water isn't too polluted.

REMEMBER! Always take an adult with you on your pond-dipping adventures!

Spotting only slaters can spell dirty water!

Little rotters

Water slaters are able to live in water that has hardly any oxygen, because of pollution. If there are just slaters in the pond, and nothing else, it's a sign that the water quality is poor.

POND PUZZLE

Can you find the 10 pond-dwelling creatures in the wordsearch below?

Solution at the bottom of the page

- Alderfly
- Damselfly
- Dragonfly
- Flatworm
- Hoverfly
- Leech
- Mayfly
- Pond skater
- Water bug
- Water snail

W	A	T	E	R	B	U	G	F	L
F	L	A	T	W	O	R	M	B	I
D	B	O	O	T	W	E	G	E	A
D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y	N
D	A	M	S	E	L	F	L	Y	S
P	O	N	D	S	K	A	T	E	R
Y	L	F	R	E	V	O	H	A	E
Y	L	F	Y	A	M	E	L	E	T
A	L	D	E	R	F	L	Y	W	A
H	C	E	E	L	Y	R	A	Y	W

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Pond puzzle solution:

W	A	T	E	R	B	U	G	F	L
F	L	A	T	W	O	R	M	B	I
D	B	O	O	T	W	E	G	E	A
D	R	A	G	O	N	F	L	Y	N
D	A	M	S	E	L	F	L	Y	S
P	O	N	D	S	K	A	T	E	R
Y	L	F	R	E	V	O	H	A	E
Y	L	F	Y	A	M	E	L	E	T
A	L	D	E	R	F	L	Y	W	A
H	C	E	E	L	Y	R	A	Y	W