



Welcome to the Pond



by Ruth Owen

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Published in 2016 by Ruby Tuesday Books Ltd.

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Photo credits

Alamy: 11 (bottom), 19 (top right); Corbis: 29; FLPA: 14, 15 (left), 24, 27; Nature Picture Library: 22–23; Public Domain: 9 (left), 13 (top right); Science Photo Library: 20–21; Shutterstock: Cover, 2–3, 4–5, 6–7, 8, 9 (right), 10, 11 (top), 12, 13, 15, 16–17, 18–19, 25, 26, 28, 30, 31.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2015916859

ISBN 978-1-910549-67-4

Printed and published in the United States of America

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Words shown in **bold** in the text are explained in the glossary.

Welcome to the Pond

Who and what lives in a pond?

This **habitat** is home to many different types of plants.

The residents of this habitat include frogs, turtles, ducks, and other animals.



Every living thing in the pond gets what it needs to live from its habitat.



A pond is a type of ecosystem. An ecosystem includes all the living things in an area. It also includes non-living things such as water, soil, rocks, and sunlight. Everything in an ecosystem has its own part to play.

So let's find out what happens in this natural neighborhood ...
... welcome to the pond!

Pond Plants

Lily pad

Stems underwater

It's spring, and the plants that live in the pond are growing new **shoots** and leaves.

Water lilies grow in the muddy soil at the bottom of the pond.

They take in water and **nutrients** from the mud through their roots.

Each water lily stem grows up to the surface of the pond.

At the end of the stem is a leaf, or lily pad, that floats on the surface.

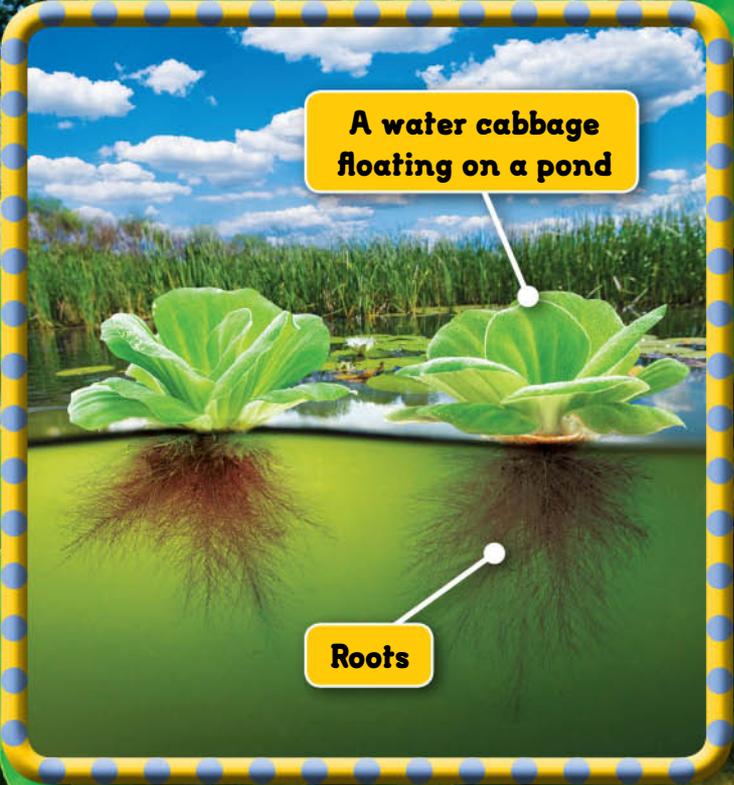
A red-winged blackbird hunts for insects on floating lily pads.





Water cabbage plants don't grow in soil. They float on the pond with their roots dangling below the surface. The roots take in water and nutrients from the pond water.

Water cabbage



A water cabbage floating on a pond

Roots

In what ways are pond plants useful to the animals that live in the pond?