

EXPLORERS



Outdoor Box - Make a Mini Pond

This activity is for Explorers
but any section or leaders
could take part too !

What you need:

- A large water-tight container
- Sand or washed gravel
- Rainwater
- Aquatic plants
- Pebbles or stones or logs



How to make it:

Consider the location of your pond carefully, as this is important for successfully attracting wildlife. Ideally this should be a tree-free and sunny area of your garden, as this will limit the amount of leaf fall into the pond in the autumn. Ponds larger than 2m x 2m provide an attractive breeding site for wildlife, but smaller ponds can still be a haven for frogs and other species.

1. The container - Anything from an old sink to a large plastic container can make a perfect mini pond. Make sure your container is clean and any leaks are sealed, then place it in your chosen location as it will be harder to move when full of water.
2. Preparing your pond - use stones or logs to create ledges in your pond, this is essential to make sure wildlife can easily get in and out of the water. Add sand or clean gravel to the bottom of your pond for a natural look.
3. Add water - add water to the container. Tap water is not good as it contains additives that can be harmful to wildlife and will result in the presence of algae. Always use rainwater if possible.
4. Add plants - aquatic plants will help to keep the pond healthy and provide a haven to shelter wildlife and they look good too.
5. Now wait... It's surprising how quickly a new pond will attract wildlife, so watch and wait as visitors to your garden will start to set up home.

Take it further:

You could keep a log of the wildlife that visits your new mini pond and see if it returns next year. Search online to identify any wildlife that you see using your mini pond. If you enjoyed making a mini pond, you could think if a larger pond might fit into your garden.

Safety Notes:

Gardening and Nature: Wash your hands after the activity has finished and wear gloves if needed.

Online Access: Supervise young people when they're online and give them advice about staying safe.

Important: Don't forget to supervise young children around ponds and make a mesh cover if need be to protect members of your family, remembering to leave spaces for the wildlife to access the water.