

The Food Chain in a Pond



Sunlight provides energy for plants to grow.



Algae



Water lily



Duckweed



Elodea



Cattails

Pond Plants



Midge larva



Stickleback



Wood duck



Pond snail



Tadpole

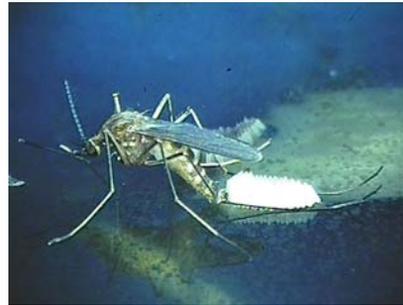


Beaver

The plants provide food for many creatures.



Mayfly



Mosquito



Dragonfly



Water boatman



Water skater



Whirligig beetle

Many insects live near the surface of the pond.



Snapping turtle



Salamander



Catfish



Bluegill



Pickerel frog

Small insects and fish provide food for larger creatures.



Redwing blackbird



Tree swallow



Great blue heron



Water snake



Kingfisher



Diving spider



Water shrew

Nearby animals and birds also depend on pond life.



Yellow perch



Crappie



Lotus



Crawfish



Watercress

Sometimes people can eat fish and plants from ponds, too!



Freshwater mussel



Rat-tailed maggot



Bloodworms

Plant and animal detritus is eaten by creatures who live in the mud at the bottom of the pond.



A pond is a very complex habitat.
Can you guess who might live in this pond?