

Aquatic Ecosystem Study

Pond

Student names:

Part I: Climate Data

Today's date:

Air temperature:

Current weather pattern:

Part II: Water Properties

Water temperature (water surfaces only)

Take five readings

Enter
Median



Water depth (top of mud to surface of water)

Take five measurements (inches)

Enter
Median



Part III: Water Chemistry

pH test: measures acid/base level of water

best if between 6.5 and 8.2

Enter
Results



Phosphate test: pollution from detergents

below 1.0 p.p.m. is good



Nitrate test: pollution from waste, fertilizers

below 4 p.p.m. is good



Oxygen test: dissolved in water for use

at least 5-6 p.p.m. needed for most wildlife



Data to
report



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p.p.m. = parts-per-million

Part IV Aquatic Insect Survey

Dip net in the pond. Record the animals you find that are on the “Critter Quality” key sheet. Count or estimate the number you find. Use the key to help you record what the presence of that animal tells you about the water habitat where the animal is found.

| Animals found in pond | Number Found | What finding this animal means |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| MAYFLY | | |
| FLY | | |
| SCUD | | |
| DRAGONFLY OR DAMSELFLY | | |
| WATER BEETLE | | |
| LEECH | | |
| STONEFLY | | |
| GIANT WATER BUG | | |
| DOBSONFLY | | |
| PAINTED TURTLE OR FROG | | |
| BACKSWIMMER OR WATBOATMAN | | |