



THE
HERITAGE
SCHOOL
AN EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING SCHOOL

THE INCREDIBLE DEPTHS OF POND



By: students of Class V-E

Introduction

*Our class went to a mission
It was a pond expedition!
We thought this was an interesting theme
We had already planned many schemes.
Then ma'am divided us in pairs
We got shocked from toe to hair!
All the pairs picked their pens
And wrote about their specimens.
We all researched and wrote about our creatures
And got our sketches signed by our teachers.
Now we'll get our field books published
And we are proud of what we have accomplished!*

Hello friends!

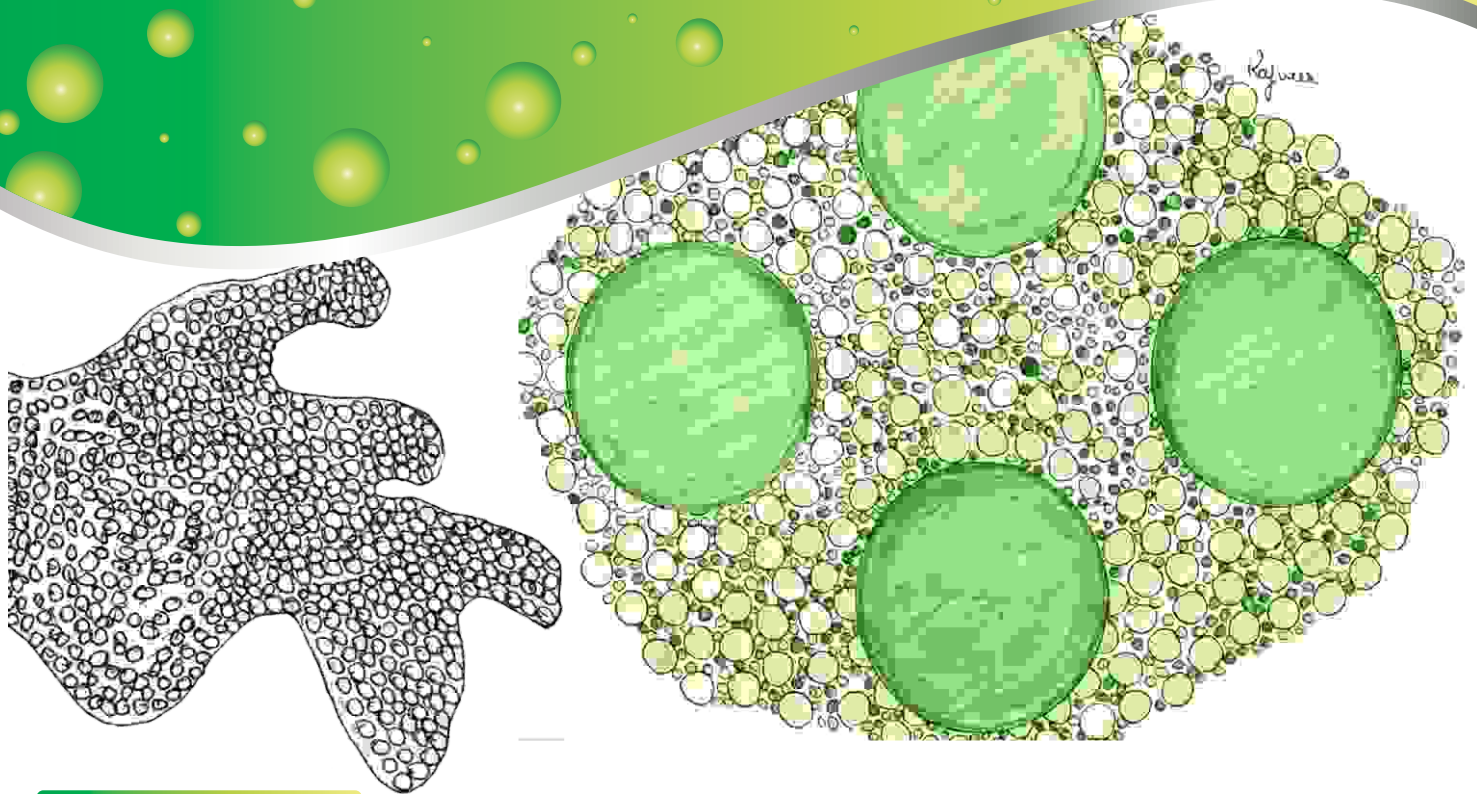
We the students of class V E are delighted to share our field book 'Incredible depths of pond' with the young scientists of 'The Heritage School'. It has been the most interesting journey of learning about pond where we went about to observe the pond in meditation center and studied specific organisms in great detail. At the end we have designed a field book for our young friends on the organisms found in and around pond. We had lot of fun while creating the field book and are hopeful that you will get to know some amazing facts from this incredible depth of information.

This field book will serve as a reference for Grade 2 and Grade 3 students. We would like to thank our teachers for giving us invaluable guidance and for planning this expedition. A special thanks to Mr. Parminder Singh Raparia of "Disha India Center for Experiential Learning" for their support during planning and conceptualization of this expedition.



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ALGAE

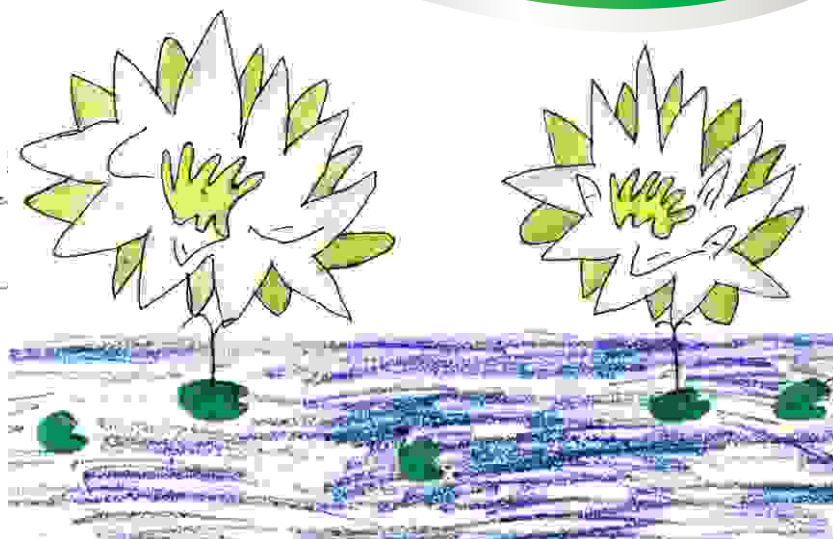
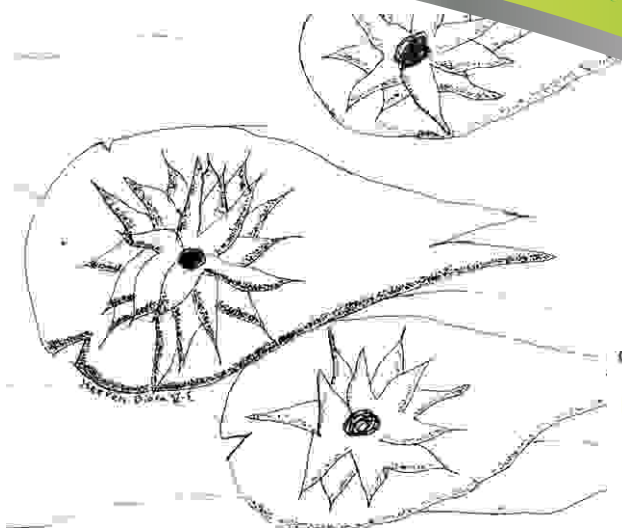
Algae are diverse group of plants which float on water and look slimy and soapy. We find different types of algae, the common algae which we find in the ponds corner are green in color and we also find them in many different colors like brown, red, and many more. We find algae in different shapes, places to such as lakes, ocean and water bodies.

Algae are a living thing but can not move, hear, smell or talk and also have a cell system. Algae usually float on water and are found at the wet corners of places like ponds, lakes etc.

We find algae in both salty and fresh water. They grow in shallow water where the direct heat of the sun penetrates into the bottom. Green algae are found in the Pacific Ocean and even in common lakes and pond as well in the surroundings of water creatures and water plants.

Amazing Facts

- In the ocean the most important plant is phytoplankton algae tiny organisms that float in the surface water of the ocean and grow in huge numbers. These are food for a wide range of sea creatures also.
- Sometimes algae grow in such huge numbers that they choke other life. These algae blooms can sometimes be caused in rivers by fertilizer or pollution from farms.
- Algae were the first thing to appear on earth some three billion years ago.
- Algae in the ocean do not only provide food but also provide oxygen to the sea creatures.
- Brown algae such as kelp grow 50 to 65 feet [15 20] down.
- Red algae grow 100 to 200 feet [30 60 m] Down.
- The algae which stuck on stones are called lichens.
- Lichens grow on bare rock, and can often be seen on stone walls and old stone buildings.
- Lichens grow in three shapes and one of it is crusty which grow on stones and walls.



WATER LILY

The leaves of water lily look like sharp nails. Their stamen is in yellow color and their stem is in brown color. Their leaves are round with a radial notch. Water lily's leaves float on water surface. Water lily flowers are wonderfully fragrant, lasting only a few days. Some open during the day and close at night, others the opposite. Water lilies spread across the waters surface, filling it with color and vibrancy all the while keeping the pond and the creatures in it safe and healthy produce. Water lilies are mostly found around lakes and ponds because they are water plants.

Water lilies require a lot of sun to grow properly. The life cycle of the Water Lily goes through the following stages:

- Bud
- Just starting to open here.
- And a little more...
- Bursting with color...
- **Full Bloom**
- Starting to lose its petals now...
- And all that's left is the center "seed pod".
- And now, we wait...
- It blooms again.

Plants like water lilies that live in extraordinary habitats are designed with inner mechanisms that help to keep them protected from injury from water currents. Their roots are firmly anchored at the bottom and their stems are unusually long and flexible. The top surface of their leaves is waxy and repels water. Their broad leaves are also supported by thick and long stalks. These leaves are full of air chambers that supply oxygen for respiration. American Indians used the plant to treat many ailments. Mashed green roots were used as poultice for swollen limbs; the roots for problems of the womb, digestive problems, a rinse for mouth sores; leaves and flowers as cooling compresses.



DUCK

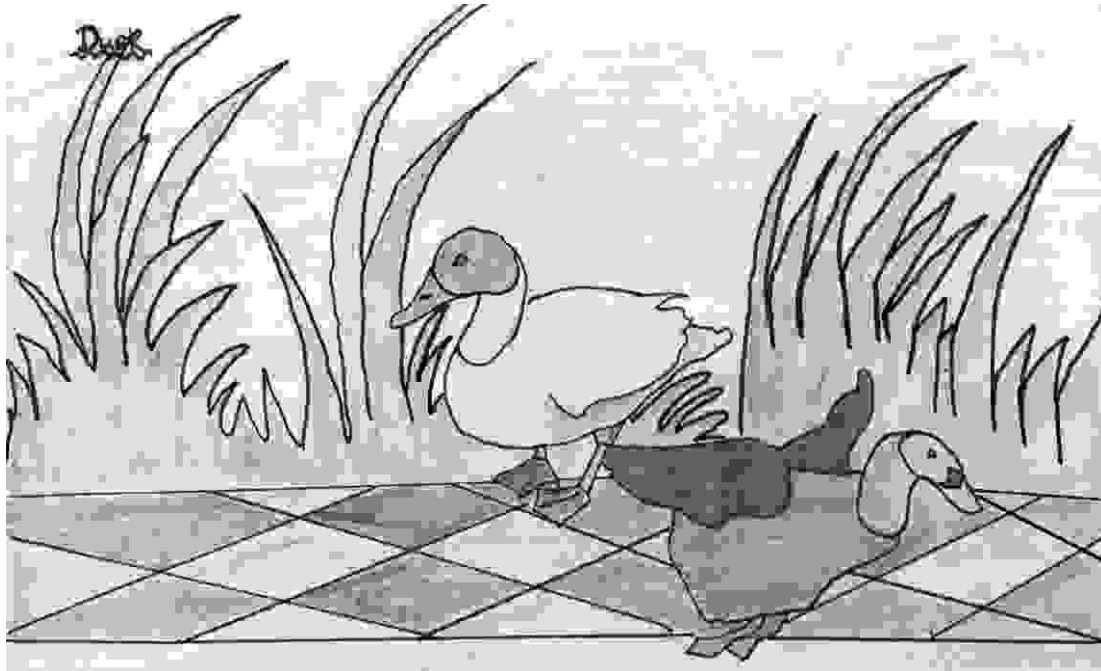
The duck has a yellow colored bill with a pair of nostrils. The ducks relatively have long neck. The legs of the duck are developed nicely and they usually sit back on their body. The wings of duck are very strong and are usually short and pointed. Ducks are mostly found in shallow, marshes, swamps, urban centers, gardens etc. Ducks are primarily vegetarians and they feed on leaves, seeds, berries, corn, bulrushes, wild rice, wheat, primrose, small frogs, small fish, oak etc.

The call of the male Mallard is softer and low pitched “rhab-rhab”. Sometimes a group of males will surround one female and shake their bodies as they swim alongside. The female follows her chosen male and makes certain head movements and calls. Female mallard duck lay around 12 eggs in a nest. The ducks make their nesting bed of leaves and feathers, usually on the ground. Eggs take approximately 28 days to hatch. The female then lead her offspring (ducklings) to water.

Ducks follow a yearly cycle of growth, migration and parenting. Independent of motherly supervision by a few months of age, young ducklings must fly south for the winter at four or five months of age. After a spending a winter season in the warm climates, these same ducks, not quite a year old, must return to the grounds where they were hatched and begin the life cycle anew, raising their own brood of baby ducklings.

Ducks can float on water surface and can walk with equal ease because of its webbed feet. Since their feet have no blood vessels so ducks can swim in icy cold water also for it does not feel the coldness. Secondly its feathers have oils which help them to float because oil floats on water and wings help in flying also. Its beak is so pointed and long that it helps the duck to catch fish and other prey easily under water. Likewise, its eyes are adapted to look under water also.

To protect themselves from predators, ducks try to run away from their predators and if that does not help than ducks bite or even run behind their enemies to scare them. Ducks usually move in groups so that they can save themselves from other animals.

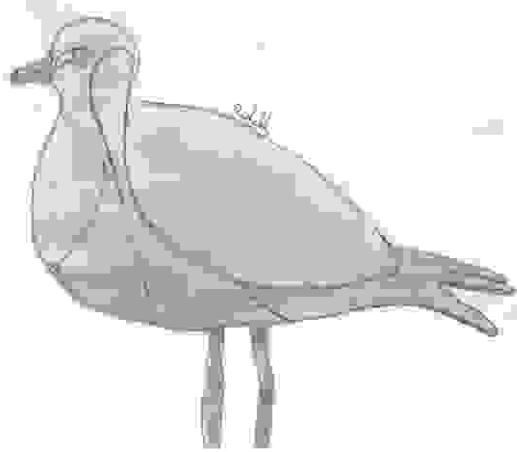


Interesting Facts

- Ducks have 3 eyelids
- Ducks have waterproof wings
- Some ducks can fly 332 miles a day
- Ducks never have cold feet because they do not have nerves or blood vessels in their feet.
- Ducks make their nests using their own chest feathers.
- Ducks can live in all kinds of weathers.
- Ducks sleep with half their brains awake and also they keep their one eye open while sleeping.

A POEM ON DUCK

I'm a duck and I like the pond
Swim and play, all day long
All my ducklings swim along
"Quack, quack" they sing my song
"Quack, quack, quack, and life is fun
Search for food under the sun
See some snails, they can't run
They taste so good, yumm.....



LAPWING BIRD

We call Lapwing Bird Titeeri in Hindi, Tidodi in Gujarati, Hatatut in Telugu and AalKaatiin Tamil.

A red fleshy wattle (a fleshy part hanging from the head or neck of a bird) in front of each eye of Lapwing Bird. Lapwing Birds are in light brown color from back. The head is in black color; their tail is short and tipped black. The beak is red colored and long legs are yellow. They are usually in pairs or in groups. They walk very slowly and they walk only when they have to pick up food. Lapwings are active at night.

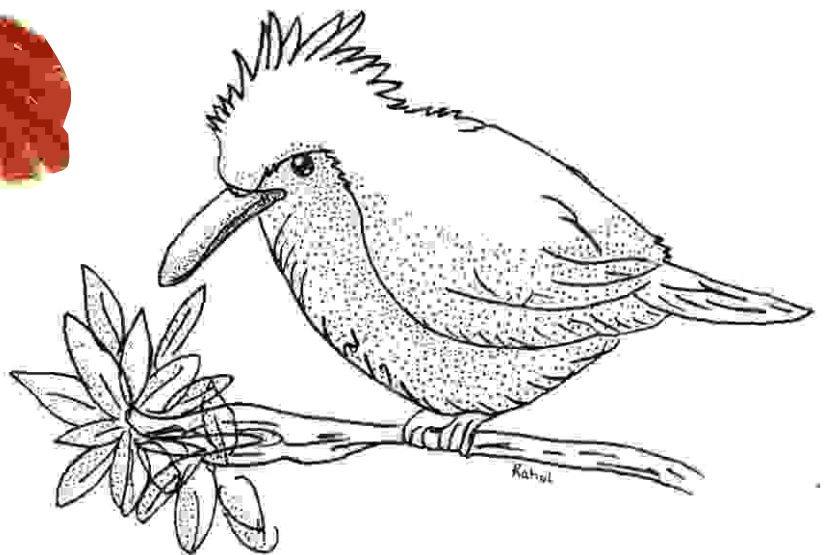
Lapwing Birds eat insects, snails and other creatures. They mostly pick food from the ground. They also eat grains. They usually stay in pairs in well watered open country grazing land margins. They are found near water bodies as it is easier for them to find food.

Lapwing Birds live near wet places like ponds and lakes. They also live in dry places near water tanks and in forests near rain filled places. When it is time to lay eggs female lapwings spend most of their time in their nests. Then they lay four eggs every time. When they hatch they can feed in few weeks only. Their cycle is completes in 70 days.

The lapwing bird has a noisy nature. It makes an irritating sound and often makes sound at night.

Riddle (Read in hindi)

**Titeerke do aage Titeer
Titeerke do peeche Titeer
Aage Titeer
Peeche Titeer
To bolo kitne Titeer???**



KINGFISHER

The common kingfisher is 17cm and weigh is around 30 to 34g. Their wingspan is 30inches long. Their under parts are bright orange in color with a white bib. Their wings are bluish grey. They are in turquoise green, and their under part is orange, throat is white and their sides and ears are also white. Male kingfishers' bill's color is black. Female kingfisher's bill is mandible orange. Juvenile kingfisher is a female kingfisher. They have a white tip and its color is paler and duller. Female kingfishers have 9 species. Their tail is bright blue in color.

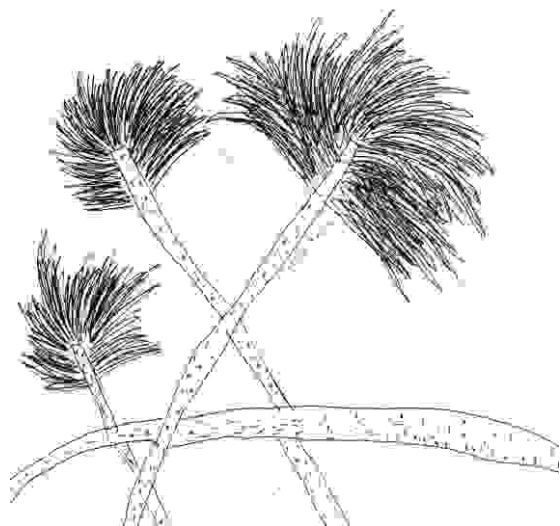
The kingfisher bird is a fishing bird whose population is decreasing. In summers kingfisher lives in clear flowing water. The slow flowing streams, rivers and lakes. In winters, kingfisher live near coastal shores and so that they can easily feed on fish.

They eat fishes and insects .Several different species of kingfisher they live in tropical areas which means that they don't have to face winter conditions that hinder the hunt for food. Kingfishers are good in catching their preys. They keep on hovering over water until they see food .They eat small fish, prawns, crabs and mudskipper from muddy land. They catch their prey by straight diving into the water and caries its prey it on a branch before swallowing it.

Kingfishers are found in countries like Australia, Europe etc. Kingfishers live in forests, scrubs .Kingfisher is famous for shouting in the forests and they shout about 3-4 times once.

The kingfisher uses wings to flap it are out of water. Its edge help to hold their slipper prey. Kingfisher plunge help to come out of water. Clear membrane helps the eyes by which they can see clearly into the water. The grooves in the face give good forward vision. They protect themselves by flying very fast in the air.

The kingfisher lays two white eggs in 18-21 days. The eggs are hatched in 23-24 days and it is capable to fly. Both parents raise the young, after which they can fly.



BULRUSH

Bulrushes are tall and leafless plants. They grow about 1.5 to 2 meters tall. The colour of bulrush is light green, dark green and light brown. At the top, bulrushes have Spikelets (spikelets are group of seeds). The colour of spikelets is brown. The spikelets are about 2 to 15 millimetres long. Spikelets are oval in shape. Some bulrush plants have flowers on them.

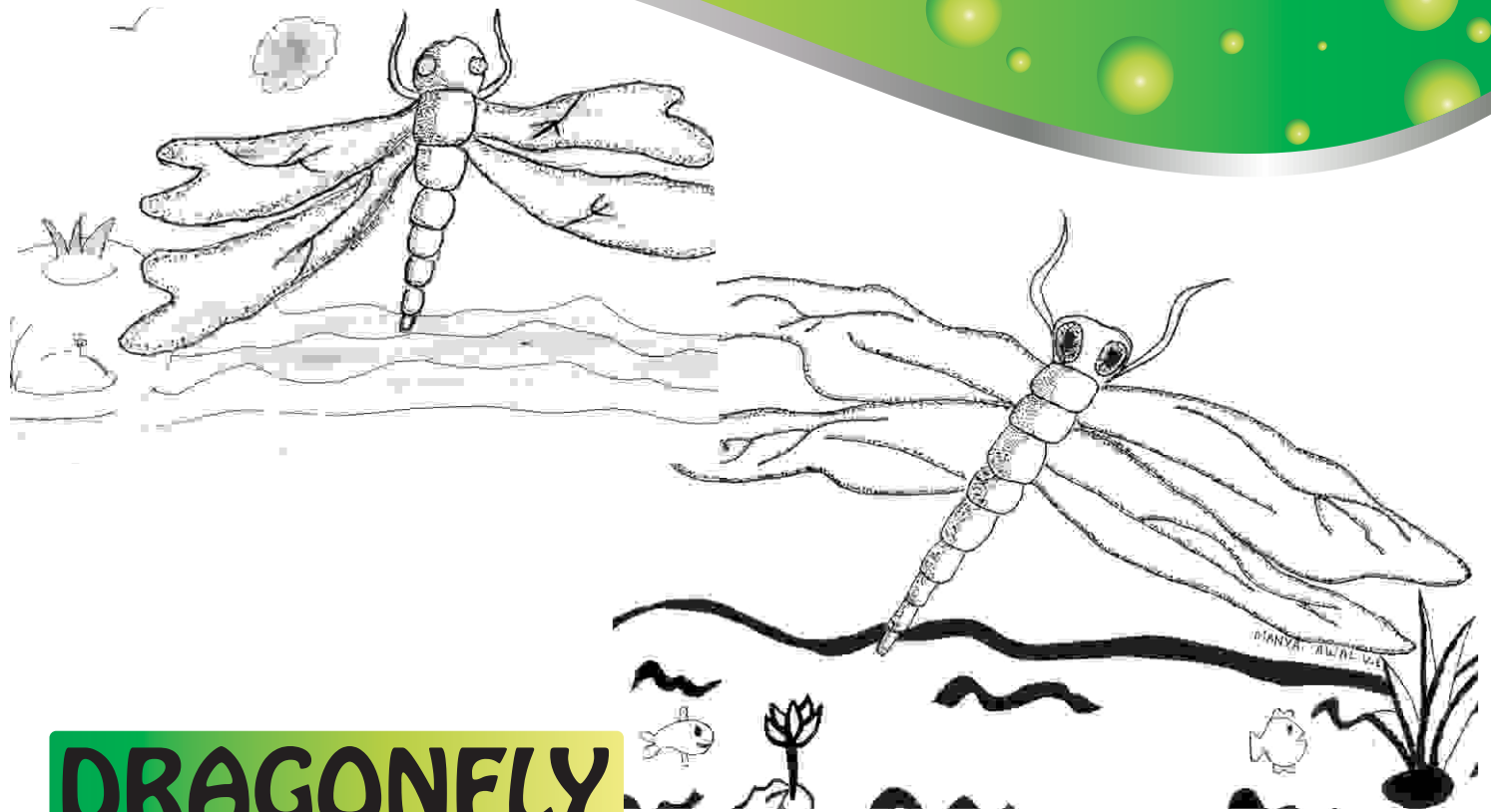
Bulrushes are like any other normal and ordinary plant. They grow day by day and move when wind blows very fast.

A bulrush plant exactly eats what other plants eat. They cook their food inside them. They use sunlight, air, soil and water to create their own food.

Bulrush plants are generally found in wet and locations like ponds, lakes, streams and so on. They also can be found in marsh areas and brackish water (brackish water is a little salty and unpleasant water). Some are even found in moist soils. So if you want to find a bulrush plant, then the best place to find it will be wet and marsh areas or locations.

Interesting Facts

- Bulrush plant's stems are used to weave strong mats, baskets and even chair seats.
- Bulrush plants are taller than many people living on earth.
- Bulrush plants reduce water pollution.
- Jesus Christ were found lying under an ark of bulrush (ark means a bush).
- Bulrush plant's seeds are eaten by many sorts of pond and lake creatures like aquatic birds, amphibians and so on. (Aquatic birds are the birds related to water).



DRAGONFLY

Hello friends!!

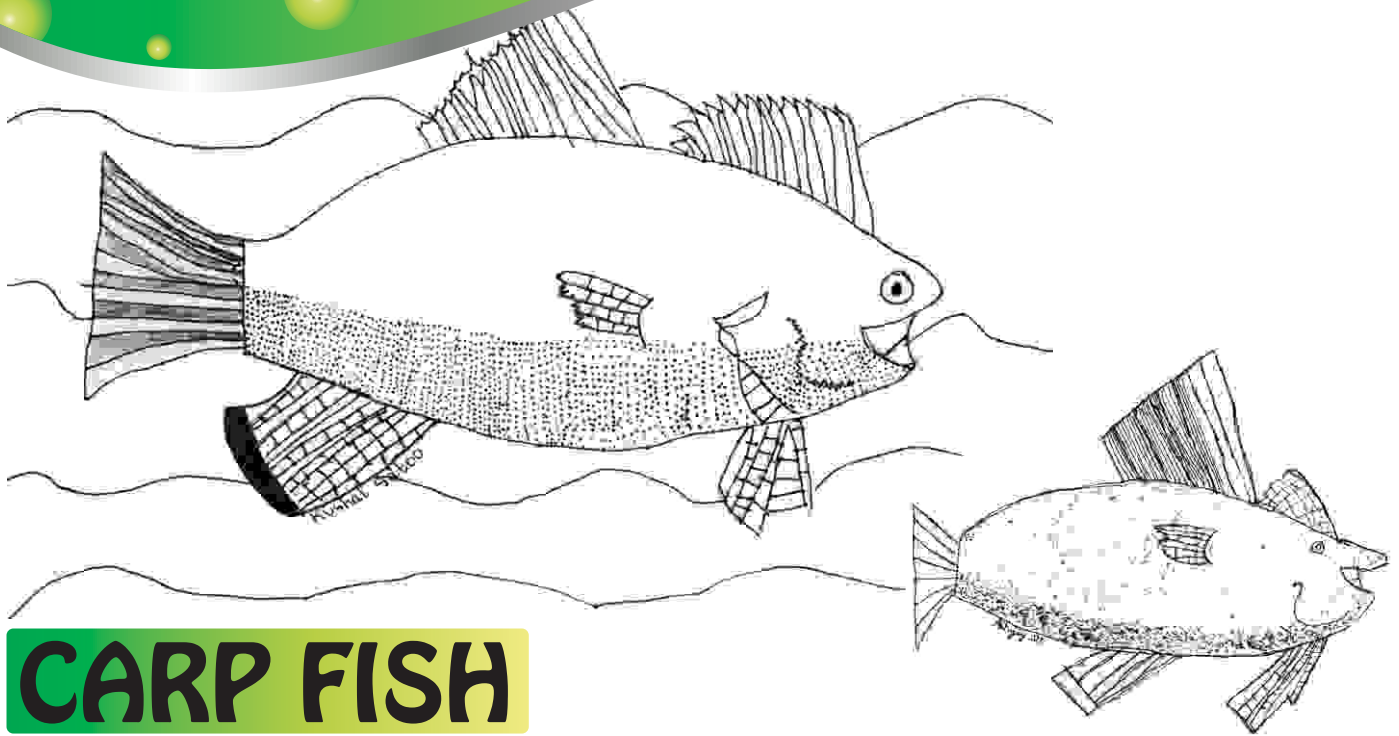
I am a dragonfly. I am an aquatic insect which lives around the pond. I have a large head and compound eyes. I have 28,000 small eyes. My antenna is very small. My mouth is suitable for biting. I have six legs which are very close to my head. I hardly use my legs for walking. My wings are elongate with cross veins which make them strong. My wings help me to stay in the air for a minute. The female's wings are smaller and shorter than the male's. My wingspan is from 17 mm to 20 cm.

I and my friends are sensitive to pollution and we like to stay in the ecosystems which are in a good condition. I and my friends are mostly found in marshy areas, ponds, lakes and streams. I and my other dragonfly friends love to eat insects such as mosquitoes, flies, bees, ants and so on. We hunt in groups like ants and termites. We (the adult dragonflies) use our legs to scoop up our food. We have many features for doing many things. Our long wings help us to fly in the sky. We use our spiny legs to capture our delicious food. Our nymphs have internal gills to breathe in water. The nymphs have jaws to capture its prey.

I have many predators that I am scared off. My predators are water bugs, fish, spiders, frogs, lizards, birds, bats and so on. We escape our predators by flying very fast and by seeing our predators quickly. My female friends also have a process to reproduce. Here's how it goes. First the female dragonfly lays its eggs on the floating plants. The larvae called 'nymph' hatches out and eats worms and small fish with the help of its lower lip. It moults about 6 to 15 times. When I became the adult dragonfly, I came out of the water and shed my skin for the last time. Then I pumped my wings and flew to find a mate.

Few facts about me:

- I spend most of my time in the larval stage.
- I can fly 97 km per hour.
- I have been on the earth for 300 million years.
- My friend who is the largest dragonfly is found in Costa Rica. Its wingspan is 7 and half inches.
- I flap my wings 30 beats per second.



CARP FISH

The Common Carp Fish is torpedo shaped and golden yellow in color. Common carp fish is easily identifiable by two pairs of barbells on each side of the upper jaw. Most carp fish are heavy bodied with bronze, brassy or yellow colored skin.

Common Carp Fish mostly live in temperate climate in fresh or slightly brackish waters. They are very tolerant to most conditions but prefer large bodies of slow or standing waters and soft vegetative sediments.

Common Carp Fish is highly adaptive and can survive winters in frozen ponds or lakes as long as some free water is available below the ice. They can also adapt and survive in waters that have very low oxygen levels by gulping air at the surface.

Typically at the age of one year, carp fish become mature, and by three years, they are ready to breed. Female carp can produce a million eggs per kilo of body weight and can spawn several times in a year. The eggs are laid among aquatic vegetation and the young grow quickly in warm plankton rich water. Young carp fish feed mostly on algae. Carp grow to four or five inches long in their first year of life. A carp fish can live up to 10 – 20 years long.

Common carp fish prefer to be in a group of 5 or more. Mirror carp, leather carp, KOI, and Israeli carp are few varieties of common carp fish.

Interesting facts

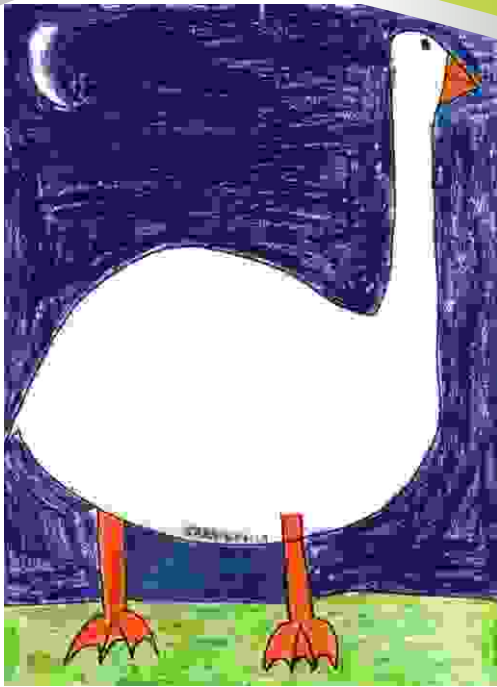
1. Did you know that the highest record of common carp's weight was more than 42.6 Kilograms?
2. Did you know that common carp fish can lay 300,000 eggs in one single spawning?

A RIDDLE FOR YOU

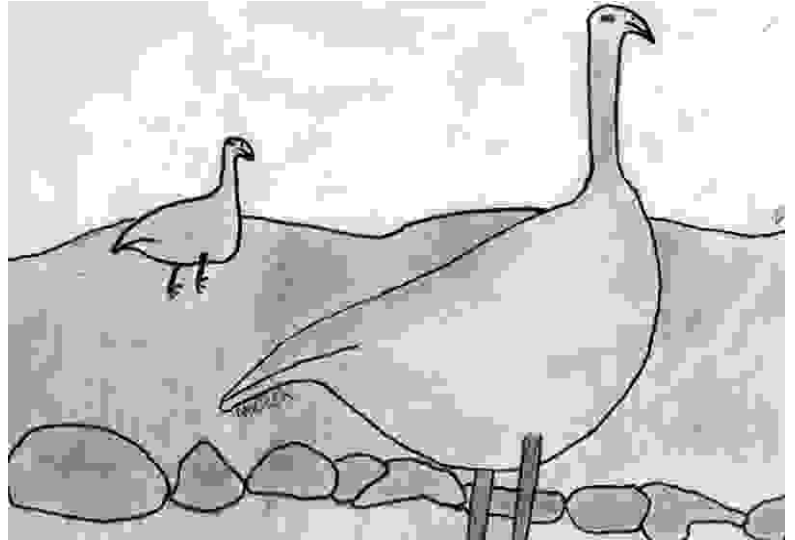
Two fathers and two sons went fishing one day. They were there the whole day and only caught 3 fish. One father said, that is enough for all of us, we will have one each. How can this be possible?

Answer

There was the father and hisson's son. This equals to 2 fathers and 2 sons.



GEESE



Geese have long necks and big bodies which are white. They have orange beaks and there is a hole so that they can breathe. They have long legs and webbed feet which are orange. They have feathers all over their body to keep warm.

Geese go anywhere where there is a pond or a lake and food for the goose, because they need these things for their survival. They spend most of the day time either swimming or waddling in the pond. They are always found in the group of 4-5 geese.

Geese are found in groups and are very friendly so they rarely fight. Geese get habituated to people and manmade lakes very fast. Geese mate for life and will only seek a new mate if the other one dies.

Geese are herbivorous and they get most of their food from land. They eat grass, land plants, weeds and aquatic plants like lily pads. Since geese live near ponds and lakes these birds can also be found feeding on fish, frogs and other small organisms.

Geese have good eyesight and hearing so that they can get away from their predators. Geese focus on things below and above them quickly while flying so when the predator comes to get them, the predators will not be able to get them because the geese will see or hear them and get away. They also have a **serrated** beak to catch their prey. Their webbed feet are used as a paddle while swimming which makes it easier for them to swim. They have hollow bones so it is easier to fly.

(Serrated-A jagged edge)

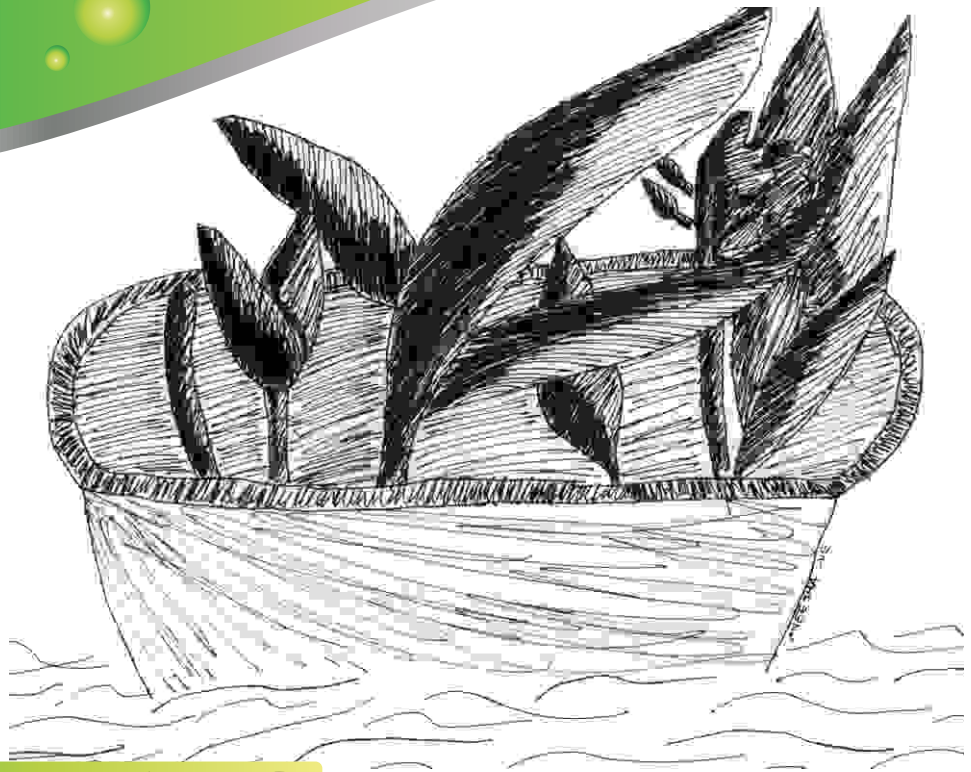
The life cycle of geese is GOOSE --- EGG --- GOSLING.

Geese lay eggs and the eggs become goslings and the goslings become geese and lay more eggs.

Geese open their wings as wide as possible to get bigger than their predators so they can run away. Geese stay in groups so it is hard for the predators to hunt.

Interesting Facts

- Geese breed just once a year, during March and April.
- Geese lose their feathers once a year, in July.
- Geese are migratory which means they move around when the weather changes so that they can find appropriate weather for themselves.



CANNA PLANT

The large paddle like leaves are in colors of greens, brownish, maroon varieties, and stripes. The leaf is pointed from top, the stem is light in color, and the leaf is curved from its sides. They spread from 12 to 24 inches and reach heights from 2 to 6 feet. When they mature and bloom, their large flowers attract attention with their vibrant colors.

As a wild plant, the canna lily is found in all tropical areas, especially in moist places along streams, springs, ditches and the margins of woods. It may also be found in wet temperate or mountainous regions. The canna plant eats or absorbs sunlight, water, soil and air. They are found near wetlands. They need moist soil, but if the soil retains so much moisture and stays soggy, they will not grow properly.

They protect themselves from fungus as they have a waxy coating on them, which reflects water. The life cycle of the canna plant goes through few stages:

1. Seed
2. Radical
3. Baby plant
4. Grown up plant
5. Adult plant

The Canna plant adaptive features are its leaves has a waxy substance which reflects water to protect the plant. The stalk is angular and hollow, branched and covered in fine hair. The leaves are palmate in with sharp edges. The male plants are generally taller and flower earlier than the female plant.

INTERESTING FACTS

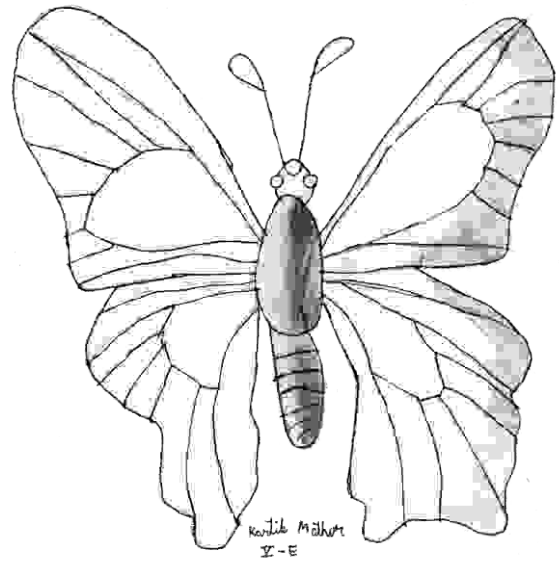
- Cannabis was first cultivated in China around 4000 B.C. and the US declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper.
- There are three main types of Canna Plants – Cannabis Sativa, Cannabis Indica and Cannabis Ruderalis.
- The height of canna reaches to 2- 6 feet.



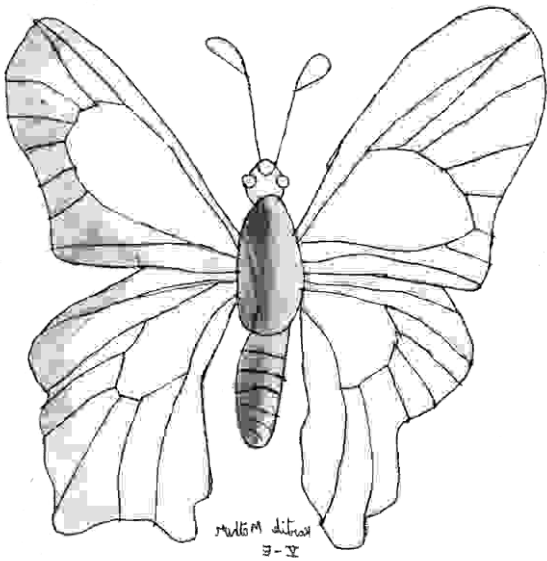
- Cannas have 411 varieties which are seen.
- Cannas require full sun light and plenty of water.
- Cannas are favorite food of rolling caterpillar.
- Canna plant is also known as Cannabis and Marijuana.

A Poem on Canna Plant

The Canna plants are so attractive
 But they are a little bit particular
 If they have the warm weather
 They will grow utterly spectacular
 They are raised all over the world
 In the beginning grew very tall
 With leaves wide and impressive
 But nothing stays the same after all
 The French did some crossbreeding
 Developed new colors and styles
 Italians got into the picture
 Creating dwarf plants after awhile
 Quite an amazing story, don't you think?
 With many twists and turns
 It just makes the flower more interesting
 Like many varieties of delightful ferns
 So the Canna has quite a history
 And it is certainly a beautiful plant
 We have to say it is universal
 Which adds an appealing kind of slant



A butterfly is a very colorful insect, which is an advantage for them they use it to camouflage. They also use their surroundings to camouflage from their prey.



Interesting Facts

A poem on butterfly



TOAD

Toads appear to be fat bodied, have short hind legs and tough dry skin. They have swelling behind their eyes like bright jewel. They are often brownish and grayish in color. Toads have slightly webbed toes, don't have teeth and are stouter than frogs. All toads blink their eyes when they swallow. This is because no bone exists between the eye and the mouth. Most toads are nocturnal. Toads rest during the day in burrows or under trees, and like to roam around freely in the evenings.

Toads mostly eat flies, moths, grubs, slugs, worms and other small invertebrates. Big toads can go up to eating new born water snakes or small mice. Some toads are poisonous too. The life cycle of a toad has four stages. First, the female toad returns to the pond or stream to lay eggs. The eggs hatch into tadpoles in early spring or summer. In less than two months, the tadpoles turn into toad lets or toad tadpoles. After approximately two weeks, they have developed all body parts and are fully matured toads. Toads are mostly found in tropical regions. They are local to most of the land masses. They are found near wetlands like ponds and lakes. However they are not able to survive in very cold places like Greenland, Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, and of course, the polar regions.

The skin of the toad helps it adapt to the environment in many ways. The color of the skin of the toad –which is just like the color of mud-, helps it to camouflage in the mud, so that it can be saved from the predators. The skin is tough, so, the toad can live farther from water sources than frogs can. The skin also helps the toad to breathe in water. The slightly webbed toes of the toad help it to survive in water. Mucus is produced by the toad's tongue, which helps it in swallowing its food.

Toads protect themselves by covering their bodies with poisonous liquids. Adults can double their size by sucking air, so that the enemy cannot swallow them. The Horned Toad – a species of toads- shoots blood from its eyes. Others either hop away or camouflage in the mud.

The features that help the toad are

- Toads are like frogs and they are amphibians, so they can live on both land and water. They have features that allow them to live and grow on both the habitats.
- They have a brown skin for camouflaging.



- They are able to take up oxygen dissolved in water, or also from moisture of their skin.
- They can hop on land.
- They have a sticky tongue to capture their prey.
- For defense purpose they do possess a bag containing poison.
- They have webbed toes that allow them to swim.

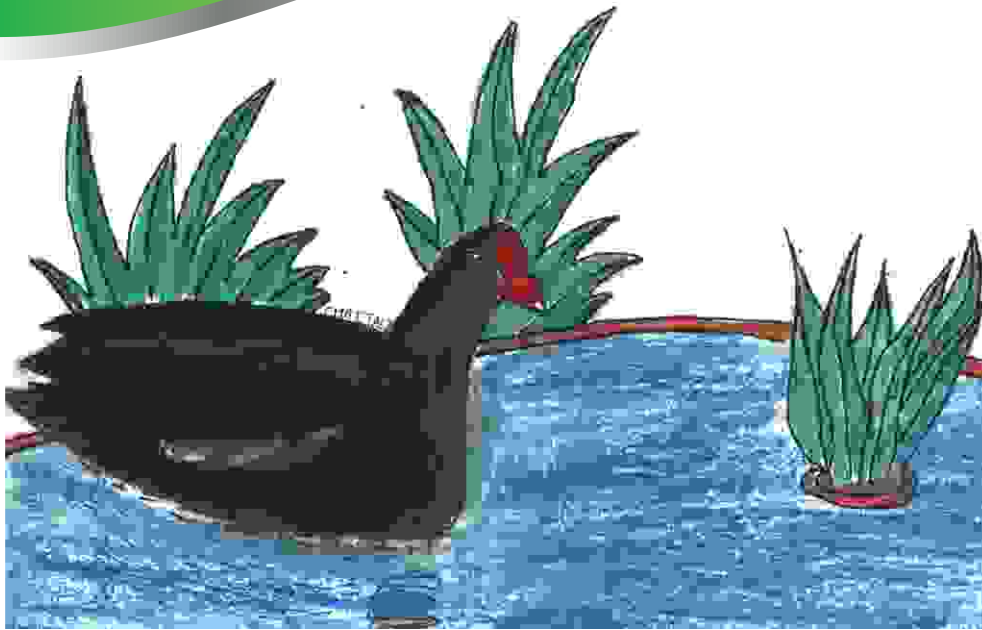
These all features enable them to grow as amphibians.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Horned toads can shoot blood from their eyes for maximum five feet away.
- In Australia, a toad has been found which weighs two pounds and is the size of a football.
- There was a golden toad found in 1966.
- Some species of toad can live up to 40 years
- Toads are carnivores.
- A group of toads is often referred to as a knot of toads.
- Some toads excrete toxins which taste very bad to their predators, thus keeping them safe.
- The predators of a toad are –snakes, raccoons, foxes, skunks, dogs, ravens, crows, owls, and hawks.

A poem on toad

One evening, while walking on the road,
 I was amazed to find a toad.
 When I observed it minutely,
 I saw its bulging eyes,
 And the things it tries.
 It hopped in the mud,
 And fell with a thud- d- d
 It had slightly webbed feet,
 And hopped towards the fly it wanted to eat.
 It had thick skin,
 And its face held a grin.
 Here is my toad,
 Walking on the road,



MOORHEN

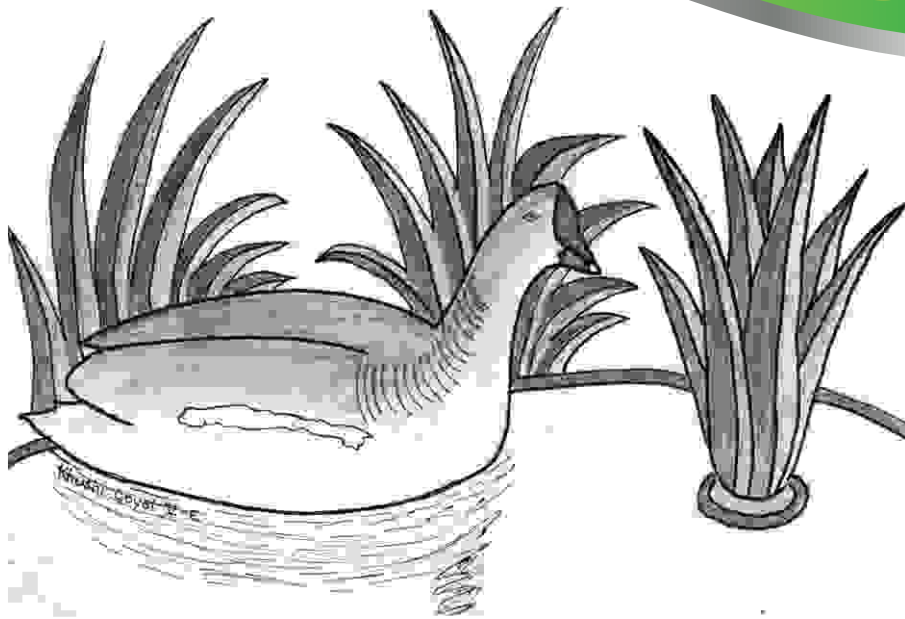
Hi! I am moorhen bird, and you can find me in black. My wings are brown and my back wings are white in colour. My beak is red, orange with a yellowish tip. I have really long toes. When I swim in the water my head goes back and forth. I am a better swimmer and walker than flier. I migrate up to 2, 000 km from some of breeding areas in colder parts. I consume a wide variety of vegetable material like water plants, seeds, fruits, grasses, small aquatic creatures, insects, snails, algae, and worms.

You can usually find me near water. I live around well vegetated marshes, ponds, canals and other wetlands I am a common breeding bird in marsh environments and well vegetated lakes. You can find me all over the year. I protect myself by using my beak or bill. I also have colorful feathers from which I protect my skin. I have good speed to fly so I can just out fly any animal. I chirp a lot when there is danger around, my chicks swim and hide.

My life is an interesting journey. I became a moorhen bird when an adult moorhen laid an egg. In 17-22 days my egg hatched. The adult moorhen laid the egg in a bowl shaped nest. Within few days I left the nest to search for food myself. In about 7 weeks I became an adult moorhen and the process goes on like this for all my friends. I and my friends are widespread throughout Europe, South America, Africa and India. In Britain we are a fairly common sight near most aquatic environments, and we are excellent swimmers. Moorhens are incredibly resourceful.

HERE ARE SOME FACTS ABOUT ME

- Common water hen is more descriptive name for moorhen bird.
- Moorhen's feet have no webbing.
- Nests maybe used by different female.
- Eggs laying starts in spring between mid May and mid March.
- About 8 eggs are laid per female early in season.
- Strong legs help them run as fast as they can.
- There are 10 species of moorhen bird.

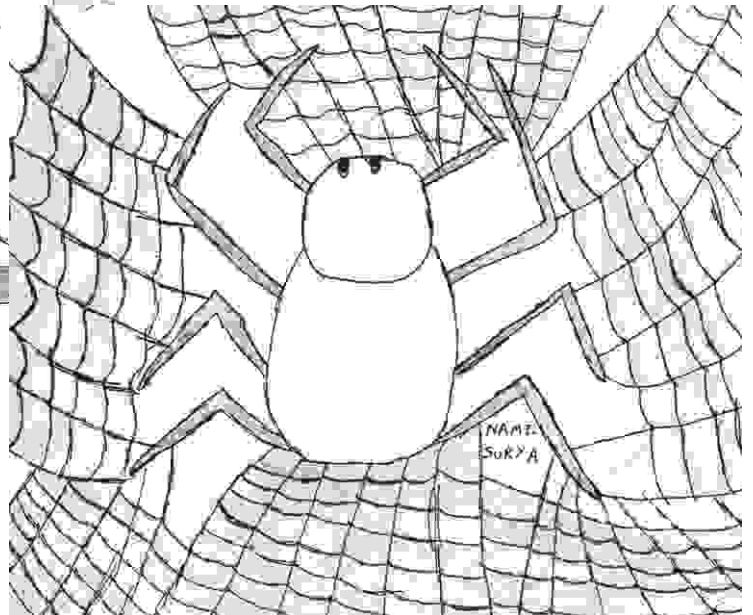
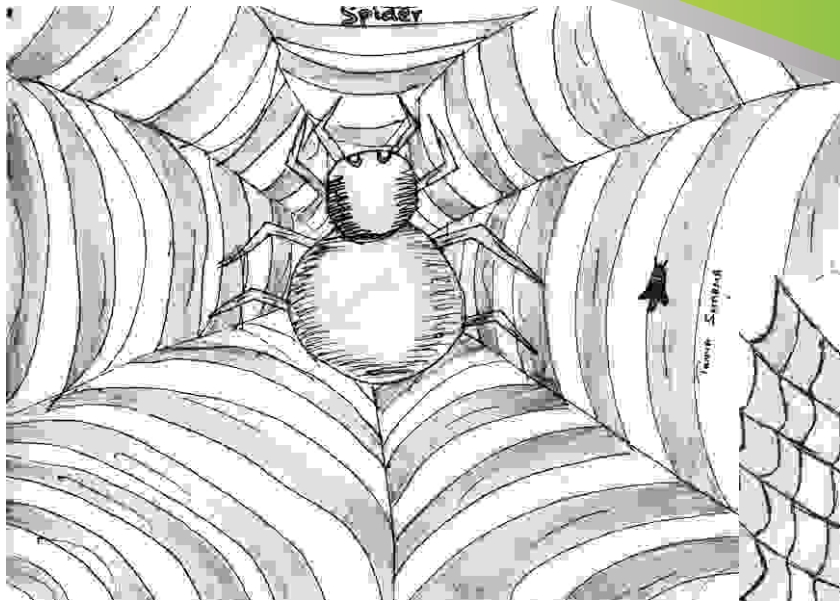


A Poem on Moorhen

In The Spring I Build My Nest,
I Pick Up The Twigs And Dried
Grass And Make It With The
Material I Like The Best,

You Can See Me Sitting On
The Eggs Every Day,
And See Them Hatching
In The Mid Of The May,

I Like My Chicks They Like Me,
Because I Keep Them Protected
Even From A Bee.



SPIDER

Spider has two eyes. They have eight legs and have small hair. They have a small mouth with small spots on their body. They are brown in colour. We can find them in different shapes and sizes. They have sharp nails on their legs. All spiders have this in common. Most spiders have eight eyes. Their hair helps them to hear, feel and smell. They don't have bones. Their soft body is protected by a hard shell outside. They depend on their hair and their short legs like pulps to help them sense things.

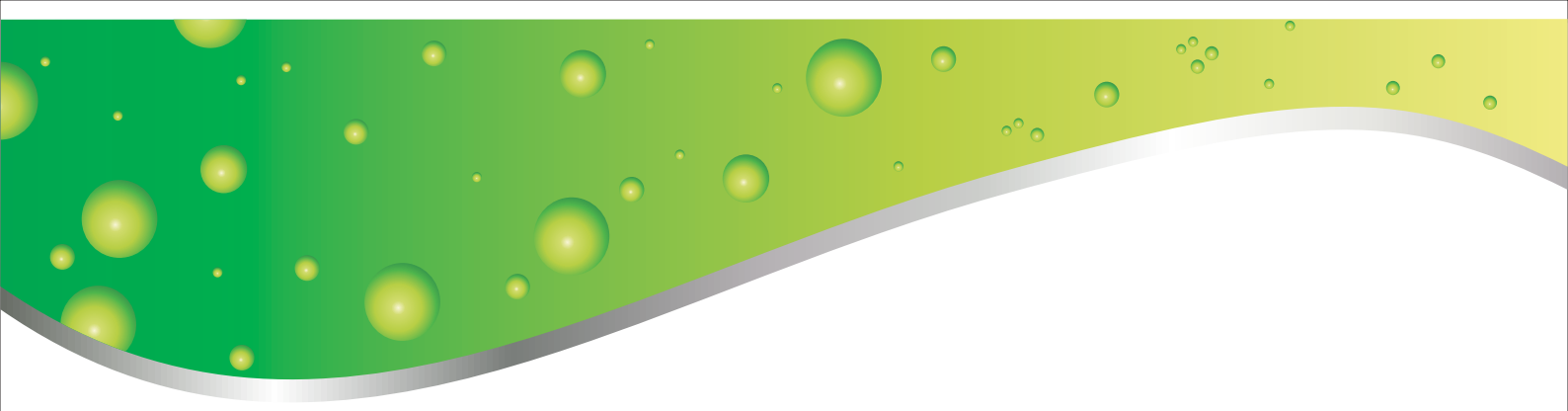
They show wide variety of behaviour. They snatch their prey from other animals. The black widow spider is widely feared because its bite results in severe pain that may take several days to subside. They eat insect, butterfly, flies etc. They don't have own home. They make their own web with their stomach because they eat food and it becomes sticky thread like-structure. By this they make their webs.

They are found back off the beds or corners of the walls. Mostly they are found in hot deserts. They have a sticky web where they live. The main thread looks like the spokes on a bicycle wheel. Orb weavers web each night and build a new one it may even ate the old web to recycle the silk. Spiders have special claws on their feet.

The life cycle of a spider mite consists of five developmental stages: egg, larva, protonymph, deutonymph and adult. Development from egg to adult often takes one to two weeks or more, depending on the mite species, temperature, host plants, humidity and other environmental factors.

Interesting Facts

- There are some famous spider like black spider, American house spider, red window spider and brown window spider. There are many types of mini beast.
- Spiders are arachnids and they have eight legs. Spider belongs to the class of animals called arachnid. Some spiders that live near water eat small fishes.



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