

LEVELED BOOK • I

Life at the Pond

Written by Bea Silverberg

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The pond shines in the sun.
The water is quiet.
Many things live in the pond.



The pond is like a small world.

It is home to many plants and fish.

It is home to many reptiles and other animals.



Around the pond, ducks feed and play.
They gobble tiny plants and dive to catch small fish.
Mama duck watches her babies learn to swim.
What fun!



Big and small birds feed by the pond.
Some of them snap up flying insects.
The big blue heron spears a fish and gobbles it whole.
How yummy!



The top of the water is like a thin sheet.
Insects skate, hop, and float on it.
The water strider skates on long legs.
The springtail hops across with its tail.
Here we go!



Whirligig beetles spin on the water.

They have eyes on each side, to look up and down.

Lily pads with pretty flowers float on top.

The roots and stems are under the water, way at the bottom.



Frogs begin as tiny eggs in the water.
The eggs become wiggly tadpoles,
and the tadpoles grow into frogs with legs.
They jump in and out of the water looking for food.



The bullfrog is one of the biggest frogs.
He makes a big splash when he jumps in.
He has a very loud croak that sounds like *Chug-a-rumm*.
Chug-a-rumm!



What is that pile of sticks in the water?

Beavers have built a house for their family.

When a beaver swims, it smacks the water with its tail.

Smack!



Turtles in the pond snap up little fish to eat.
In winter, the turtles sleep down in the mud.
When it gets warm, they sun themselves
on a big log in the water.



Fish of many sizes and colors swim in the pond.

They breathe under the water.

Down in the mud, mama fish lays eggs.

Later on, papa fish watches the babies.



The pond is a small world where birds and fish,
bugs and turtles, and many plants all live together.
What a fun world!

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