

Wetland Footprints

Learning Activity Resource Package
Education Bureau
Teacher's Guide



Education Bureau



Agriculture, Fisheries and
Conservation Department

B. Dipping Pond

Activities “Exploring the Dipping Pond” and “Beautiful Nature” can be conducted in this area.

Area Introduction

- The Hong Kong Wetland Park supports different species of aquatic plants, insects and animals. These animals and plants are distributed in various habitats according to their living habits. In the Dipping Pond, the common aquatic plants include Water Lily and Indian Lotus which attract insects such as dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies, etc. Visitors can enjoy the blooming of Water Lily and Indian Lotus in the Dipping Pond from May to October every year.

Safety Precautions

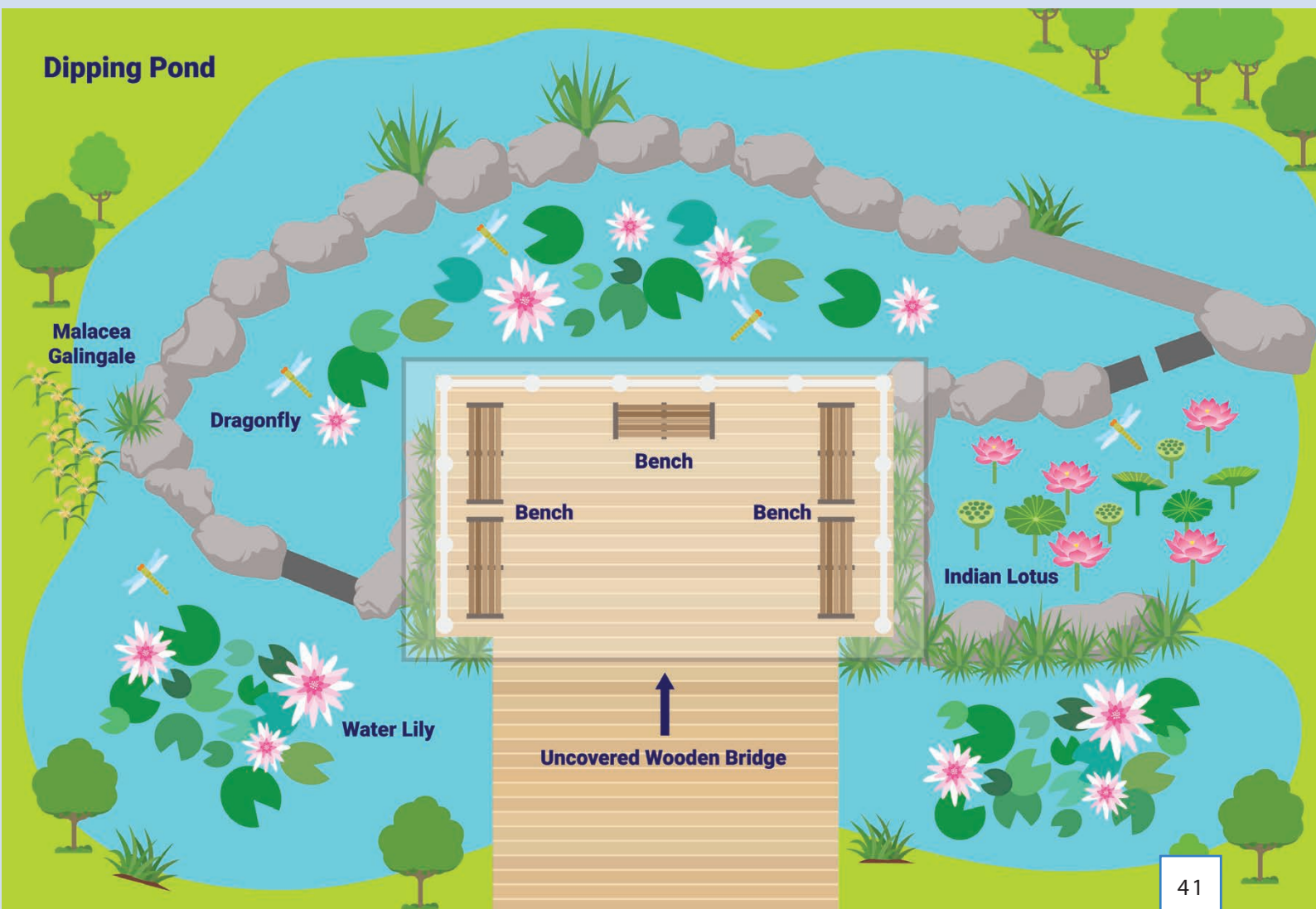
- Teachers should remind children to give due regard to safety when approaching the water’s edge without fixed fences.
- The Dipping Pond is surrounded by fences, but there is only a rope on the side of Indian Lotus and Water Lily. Teachers must remind children not to go near the rope and should designate an area for observation.
- When doing observation near the water’s edge, let children squat down side by side and remind them to observe order so as to avoid accidents.
- Teachers should let children choose any spots in the pavilion for sketching, but standing on the bench is not allowed.
- Beware of slippery ground.
- Teachers need to pay attention to the gaps between the boards in the pavilion and remind children not to drop any pencils into the Dipping Pond by accident as it will affect the growth of aquatic animals and plants. If a pencil is dropped into the Dipping Pond by accident, do not attempt to retrieve it by oneself, but should notify the security guard / staff nearby immediately for follow-up.

Design Rationale

- In the Dipping Pond, children can freely explore and share about the natural environment they have seen, so as to build up the concept of protecting the nature.
- In the third activity “Exploring the Dipping Pond”, children can use senses to observe the environment, feel and appreciate the beautiful scenery of nature, and learn to care for the environment.
- In the fourth activity “Beautiful Nature”, children can sketch in the natural environment so as to express their feelings. Not only can it reinforce their impression of the Dipping Pond, but it can also encourage them to share their experience about the visit. This brings out the co-existence of different small animals and plants, the strengthening of the message on care for nature and the understanding of the ways of protecting nature.

Teaching Skills

- If various sounds are heard, such as birds singing, cicadas chirping, dragonflies buzzing, etc., teachers can discuss with children about who Dow's friends are, or conduct discussion and exploration according to children's interests.
- As a supplementary measure and for reference only, all of the reference questions for teachers do not have "model answers" and can be adapted according to children's ability.
- Teachers can trim down the activity content according to children's performance and context.
- Teachers should allow each group of children to freely decide the quantity of beautiful sceneries to be found according to time and progress of activity.
- For the fourth activity "Beautiful Nature", the Hong Kong Wetland Park can only provide up to 60 sets of A4-sized clipboards with a multi-coloured pencil attached. It is suggested that children can take turns to use them when needed.
- According to actual situations and children's interests, teachers may conduct extended activities at school.



Activity 4: Beautiful Nature

Proposed Class Level	K1
Name of Area	Dipping Pond
Proposed Number of Participants	6 people in a group
Duration	Around 30 minutes
Teaching Aids/ Materials	Free loan from Hong Kong Wetland Park through advance registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4-sized clipboards with a multi-coloured pencil attached Free collection from Hong Kong Wetland Park through advance registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Activity Booklets
Children’s Developmental Characteristics 3-4 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Show curiosity about surroundings, able to learn through various senses, enjoy exploration and hands-on experience • Start developing the ability to distinguish the differences in appearances of objects
Proposed Learning Objectives	<p>[Knowledge] Children are able to know the characteristics of the Dipping Pond</p> <p>[Skill] Children are able to express what they observed through drawing</p> <p>[Attitude] Children are able to enjoy nature</p>
Focus of Activity	Enable children to observe and explore through senses, free to draw and share about their drawings.
Proposed Activity Plan (Procedures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher can make use of the “Reference Questions for Teachers” in this activity to help children appreciate nature and guide them to the direction for drawing. • Teacher asks them to sit on the floor or benches. • Teacher gives them a small task which is to draw out the scenery they have seen/sounds they have heard in “Nature Appreciation” of the Children Activity Booklet. • Teacher encourages children to suggest ways of protecting nature during the sharing session. • Children share their drawings with teacher. Teacher can make use of the “Reference Questions for Teachers” in this activity to help children share their work.
Possible Adjustments	Children can only express with simple patterns, teacher can guide them to express their ideas.

Reference Questions for Teachers

(Select questions according to circumstances and in line with the proposed learning objectives)

According to children's prior knowledge and skills on the activity, teacher guides them in thinking and questioning gradually and progressively.

Before the Activity

- What plants/small animals did you see just now?
- Do you like the scenery in front of you?
- How can we bring this beautiful scenery home to share with family?
- Do you like these plants and small animals?

After the Activity

- Can you tell me what you have drawn?
- Do you like this place? Why?

Extended Activities

Based on the rationale of this activity, teachers may develop other extended activities to fit into the themes of the school-based curriculum, for example:

- Teachers can encourage children to colour their drawings in “Nature Appreciation” for display at school.



Proposed Class Level	K2
Name of Area	Dipping Pond
Proposed Number of Participants	6-8 people in a group
Duration	Around 30 minutes
Teaching Aids/ Materials	Free loan from Hong Kong Wetland Park through advance registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A4-sized clipboards with a multi-coloured pencil attached Free collection from Hong Kong Wetland Park through advance registration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children Activity Booklets
Children’s Developmental Characteristics 4-5 years old	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to ask questions and express their views when they encounter interesting things during exploration • Able to use limited words and phrases to express opinions
Proposed Learning Objectives	<p>[Knowledge] Children are able to know the characteristics of the Dipping Pond</p> <p>[Skill] Children are able to express what they observed and appreciated through drawing</p> <p>[Attitude] Children are able to appreciate nature</p>
Focus of Activity	Enable children to observe and explore through senses, find their favourite spot for sketching and briefly introduce their drawings.
Proposed Activity Plan (Procedures)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher can make use of the “Reference Questions for Teachers” in this activity to help children appreciate nature and guide them to the direction for drawing. • Teacher gives them a small task which is to quietly appreciate the scenery of the Dipping Pond and draw it in “Nature Appreciation” of the Children Activity Booklet. • Teacher suggests that children include ways of protecting nature in their drawings. • Children share their drawings with teacher. Teacher can make use of the “Reference Questions for Teachers” in this activity to help children share their work.
Possible Adjustments	Children seldom have sketching activities. They may not know how to choose a suitable spot for the activity. Teacher may discuss with children beforehand and let them look around first before choosing a suitable place for the activity.

Reference Questions for Teachers

(Select questions according to circumstances and in line with the proposed learning objectives)

According to children's prior knowledge and skills on the activity, teacher guides them in thinking and questioning gradually and progressively.

Before the Activity

- Do you like the scenery in front of you?
- How can we bring this beautiful scenery home to share with family?
- Do you like these plants and small animals?
- Do you know how to protect them?

After the Activity

- Can you introduce what you have drawn?
- Do you like this place? Why?
- What would happen to those small animals if these plants disappeared?
- What would happen to those plants if these small animals disappeared?

Extended Activities

Based on the rationale of this activity, teachers may develop other extended activities to fit into the themes of the school-based curriculum, for example:

- Teachers can encourage children to colour their drawings in "Nature Appreciation" for display at school.



Proposed Class Level**K3****Name of Area**

Dipping Pond

Proposed Number of Participants

8 people in a group

Duration

Around 30 minutes

Teaching Aids/ Materials

Free loan from Hong Kong Wetland Park through advance registration:

- A4-sized clipboards with a multi-coloured pencil attached

Free collection from Hong Kong Wetland Park through advance registration:

- Children Activity Booklets

Children's Developmental Characteristics
5-6 years old

- Able to use different adjectives to describe the characteristics of objects
- Enjoy cooperative play
- Able to recite what happened in a systematic manner

Proposed Learning Objectives

- [Knowledge]** Children are able to know different ways of care for nature
- [Skill]** Children are able to draw their favourite natural scenery with details
- [Attitude]** Children are able to appreciate and care for nature

Focus of Activity

Enable children to observe and explore through senses, find their favourite spot for sketching and try to express their ideas on environmental protection through their drawings, and share it with their peers.

Proposed Activity Plan
(Procedures)

- Teacher can make use of the "Reference Questions for Teachers" in this activity to help children appreciate nature and guide them to the direction for drawing.
- Teacher gives them a small task which is to quietly appreciate the scenery of the Dipping Pond and draw it with details in "Nature Appreciation" of the Children Activity Booklet.
- Teacher discusses with children on how to make the Wetland Park more beautiful. What can be added to help the small animals live more happily?
- Teacher asks them to include ideas on protection of the plants and environment in the Dipping Pond in their drawings.
- Children share their drawings with teacher.
- Children appreciate peers' artwork and share with teacher.
- Teacher can make use of the "Reference Questions for Teachers" in this activity to help children share their work.

Possible Adjustments

Children may not be able to express their ideas on environmental protection through drawing and teachers do not have to force them to do so. Teachers can let them draw freely.

Reference Questions for Teachers

(Select questions according to circumstances and in line with the proposed learning objectives)

According to children's prior knowledge and skills on the activity, teacher guides them in thinking and questioning gradually and progressively.

Before the Activity

- What plants/small animals did you see just now?
- Do you like the scenery in front of you? Whom do you want to appreciate this beautiful view with?
- How can we bring this beautiful scenery home to share with family?
- Do you like these plants and small animals?
- Do you know how to protect them?
- Who needs these plants?

After the Activity

- Can you tell me what you have drawn?
 - What would happen to these plants and small animals if we didn't care for nature?
 - Can you guess how our lives would be affected if there were no plants and small animals?
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Extended Activities

Based on the rationale of this activity, teachers may develop other extended activities to fit into the themes of the school-based curriculum, for example:

- Teachers can encourage children to colour their drawings in "Nature Appreciation" for display at school.
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