

# STEM Exploration

## UNDERWATER SCOPE



Make an underwater scope from recycled materials to check out pond life up-close!

### Materials Provided:

Construction Paper  
Rubber Band  
Coffee Can

### Materials Needed:

Glue  
Scissors  
Plastic Wrap  
Crayons, Markers

# Instructions:

Spy on what's going on underwater with your own underwater scope! Make one with these instructions from National Geographic Kids.

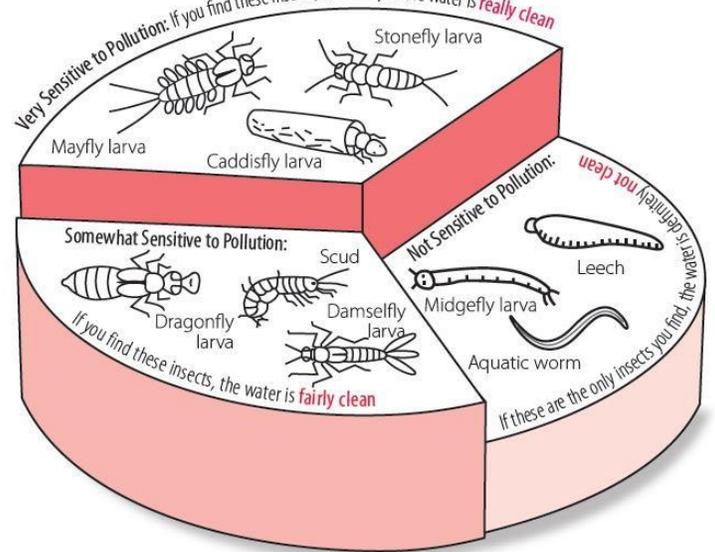
1. Ask a grown-up for help using a can opener. Using the can opener, cut the end off of an empty coffee can so both ends are open.
2. Add color to your can with construction paper. Cut a piece of construction paper to fit the size of the coffee can. You can decorate your paper with markers or crayons. When you're finished, roll it around your coffee can and glue it on.
3. Cut a large piece of plastic wrap, and wrap it over one end of the can. Make sure it is smooth and flat at the end of the can, so that you'll be able to see clearly. Secure the plastic wrap with a heavy-duty rubber band.
4. Place the scope in the water with the plastic wrap side facing down, and take a look at whatever decides to swim by!



## **BONUS PROJECT**

If you want to make a scope for deeper water, follow the same steps but use a longer piece of PVC pipe in place of the coffee can!

Did you know you can tell a lot about the water quality by the insects that live in it?



from YNC's SalmonWILD

## **WHAT TO LOOK FOR**

Certain insects can tell you a lot about the quality of the water you're searching. Use the chart above to help you determine whether pollutants are present in the water.

You can also search for tadpoles, eggs, frogs and other amphibians, and fish of all kinds! What can you spot just under the surface?

*This project was provided by **Nat Geo Kids**.  
You can find other projects on their website,  
[www.kids.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.kids.nationalgeographic.com)*