

Vernal Pools: Unique Amphibian Nurseries
Grade Levels: 3-5

With slides, investigation and observation of live animals, students will discover the critical support vernal pools provide to certain amphibians. They will examine the energy and nutrient source of these temporary pools, become familiar with some of the “obligate” vernal pool species and learn why these pools are called the “hatchery of the forest.”

Next Generation Science Standards Addressed:

Third Grade

3-LS1-1. Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction and death.

3-LS4-4. Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.

Fourth Grade

4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior and reproduction.

Fifth Grade

5-PS3-1. Use models to describe that energy in animal’s food was once energy from the sun.

5-LS2-1. Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers and the environment.