



# Aquatic Habitats

Exploring Desktop Ponds  
Grades 2-6



*Teacher's Guide*

Lawrence Hall of Science • University of California at Berkeley



# *What You Need for the Whole Unit*

The quantities below are based on a class size of 32 students. Depending on the number of students in your class, you may, of course, need fewer materials.

This list gives you a concise “shopping list” for the entire unit. Please refer to the “Getting Ready” sections for each activity. They contain more specific information about the materials needed for the class and for each team of students.

## **Non-Consumables**

- a 3–5 gallon container for a class “holding tank”
- a bucket or other large container
- 8 1 ½ gallon plastic flex-tank aquariums and 8 lids with small, round holes (about ¼" in diameter)
- 32 clear plastic cups
- 8 shelters (cups, strawberry baskets, or plastic flower pots)
- one or two cottage cheese-type containers with perforated lids
- a turkey baster or large syringe for transferring worms and mosquito larvae/pupae (the worms will get stuck in a medicine dropper)
- one small aquarium net
- a wide-mouthed container for a mosquito holding tank
- a 12" tube of pantyhose
- several light-colored dishpans or clear, plastic sweater boxes to use as observation trays for large organisms found at the pond
- 8 dip nets or small (about 4" in diameter) metal strainers with handles
- 16 disposable, white cereal bowls or other light-colored basins to use as observation trays at the pond

### Optional:

- an extra flex-tank aquarium and lid (plus sand, gravel, Elodea, shelter, label, snail, Tubifex worms, fish, and mosquito larvae) to use in class demonstrations
- 32 hand lenses

## Consumables

- about 20 gallons of dechlorinated water
- about 10 pounds pea-sized, light-colored aquarium gravel
- about 10 pounds white or light-colored sand
- about 10–12 sprigs of Elodea or another water plant
- 1 bottle of dechlorinating liquid
- about 18–20 aquatic snails
- one ounce of Tubifex worms
- about 3 dozen *Gambusia* fish
- one container fish flake food
- about 50–100 mosquito eggs or larvae

Copies of the following:

- 8 sets of 4 Aquatic Habitats Task Cards (master on page 21)
- 128 Aquatic Habitats student sheets (master on page 22) OR 32 journals
- 32 Mosquito Life Cycle student sheets (master on page 56)
- several Guide to Freshwater Life handouts (master on pages 76–78)

Optional:

- 32 copies of the Parts of a Fish student sheet (master on page 43)
- 32 copies of the “Too Many Mosquitoes!” homework or class reading assignment (master on pages 57–59)

## General Supplies

- 1 ruler
- 1 black permanent marker
- 1 pair of scissors or a paper cutter
- newspaper and/or paper towels
- several sheets of chart paper
- 8 adhesive labels
- 32 pencils
- 32 pieces of white scratch paper
- a large rubber band

Optional:

- 32 sheets of 18" x 9" construction paper for folder or journal covers
- crayons or markers for journal cover drawings
- a small dry-erase (white) board and marker for recording class observations at the pond