



What do I need?

Paper plate

Green & blue paint*

9 cupcake cases

Glue stick

Scissors

Sponge

Coloured pens or pencils

*You can use acrylic, poster or finger paint for this activity.



paper plate pond

What do I do?

Read page 2 to discover how to make your garden pond wildlife friendly and learn about the different creatures that can live in and benefit from a pond.

Use a sponge to dab spots of blue and green paint onto your paper plate until it is completely covered. Put your plate to one side to dry completely.

Whilst your paint is drying, divide your cupcake cases into sets of three. Colour one set green for the lily pads and one set pink for the centre of the water lily. Leave one set white for the outer petals of the flower.

Cut a triangle from the outer edge of one of your green cupcake cases, then add a small spot of glue to the centre. Gently scrunch one white and one pink cupcake case and stick these inside your green one to look like a water lily sat on a lily pad. Repeat this step with your other two sets of cases.

Glue your water lilies onto your paper plate pond. You can leave your Monet inspired pond like this or you can draw some creatures swimming in the water using your coloured pens, such as fish or a frog. Put your pond on display for everyone to see!

Did you know?

Ponds and pools are a common feature in many types of garden. In British gardens they are often used as a central water feature or to attract wildlife. They are also found in Islamic 'paradise' gardens, where water symbolises life and purity as well as giving comfort and pleasure to visitors. Ponds have also been the subject of many artists' interpretation, most famously in Claude Monet's 'Water Lilies'.



wildlife pond



Ponds are a great addition to any garden if you want to encourage more wildlife, but there are some things that you must do to ensure that your pond is wildlife friendly. Follow the three S's below to make your pond a thriving ecosystem.

SHAPE

Your pond should include a shallow, sloping end so that creatures can easily climb in and out. One way to do this is to use stones and gravel to build a beach that gradually slopes into the pond. This also creates a place for insects, birds and small mammals like hedgehogs to drink water safely without drowning.

SIZE

On the whole, the bigger your pond is the more wildlife it attracts. If you have lots of space in your garden, build a bigger pond! However, even a small pond will attract a large variety of plants and animals.

SHADE

Your pond should include some shading so that it doesn't dry out in the summer and to help reduce algae growth which can deplete the water of oxygen. A small amount of sunlight is still needed in the spring though to warm the water and make it attractive to frogs and toads looking to spawn.



Ponds will attract a wide range of wildlife to your garden, including:

- Amphibians, e.g. frogs and toads;
- Insects, e.g. dragonflies, butterflies, pond skaters, water boatmen and diving beetles;
- Predators, e.g. grass snakes, swallows, grey herons and hedgehogs.

A pond will greatly enhance the quality of your garden, encouraging creatures that will help to control pests and pollinate plants.