



Great diving beetle

Green-black in colour, they eat invertebrates, tadpoles and small fish. They come to the water's surface to get air, which they store beneath their wing cases.



Water scorpion

This predator lurks in the weedy edges of ponds, catching prey in its pincers. Their scorpion-like tail isn't a sting, it protrudes above the water like a straw, for breathing air.



Dragonfly nymph

An expert predator that eats tadpoles and small fish. Can live under the water for up to 5 years. Distinguishable from the damselfly nymph as it has no 'tails'.



Damselfly nymph

They have a slender body with three long flattened 'tails' at the end of the abdomen. Distinct eyes on either side of the head.



Spotter Guide



POND LIFE

See how many of these pond creatures you can spot



Common frog

Smooth body with a dark strip across the eyes. They eat slugs, snails and invertebrates. They need fish-free ponds to spawn successfully.



Common toad

Has a broad body with dry, warty skin. They crawl rather than hop and mostly live out of the water. They eat slugs, snails and invertebrates.



Rare find!

Great-crested newt

Can reach up to 17cm long! Mainly dark brown with an orange and black-spotted belly. In breeding season, males have two ragged crests along the body and tail.





Smooth newt

Grey-brown with a pale orange belly. Males have black spots and a wavy crest in breeding season. Females lay one egg folded into an underwater leaf. They leave water for damp, sheltered spots.



Pond skater

Water-repellent hairs on the bottom of their feet let them walk on water. Good fliers, they're one of the first invertebrates to colonise a new pond. They're predatory, with a sharp beak to grab smaller invertebrates.



Whirligig beetle

Small, shiny black beetle. They zoom along the surface hunting for smaller invertebrates. They swim underwater when threatened and use a bubble of air to breathe. Has two pairs of eyes to see above and below the water!



Freshwater snail

Varying greatly in size, there are around 40 different species of water snail in the UK. They feed on algae and rotting matter.



Water boatman

Spending life upside-down just under the water's surface, they row with oar-like legs to snatch prey as large as tadpoles and small fish. Like the pond skater, they are good fliers.



Lesser water boatman

Similar to a water boatman, the lesser water boatman swims near the bottom of the pond with paddle-like arms protruding from underneath the body. They eat algae and rotting plant material.



Caddisfly larvae

Most larvae build cases by gluing together bits from the pond. They live in clean, shallow water that has lots of aquatic plants, feeding on algae and decaying matter.



Leech

Some species like to feed on freshwater snails. Larger species can be up to 30mm. Pale grey or fawn in colour with yellow spots.

