



## Exploration of a Natural Area

Grades 1-2

The “Explore Delta Ponds” video <http://vimeo.com/104554388> may be supplemented with additional activities related to observing and identifying animals, plants and insects. Use the coloring page to encourage observation. Some of the key concepts from the video to discuss with your class or assign as activities include:

- Observation Skills: Stop, look and listen in a natural area to enjoy all of the sights and sounds around you. Practice this outside at the school, or at home in your yard or park. Record what you see and hear by making a drawing and writing some notes.
- Respect the environment: Stay on the path in a natural area. Why? (we might disturb the animals or damage the plants that help them to live)
- Wildlife, plants and water all support each other in important ways. How do different animals use the water in the ponds? (eating, drinking, raising babies, swimming)
- Compare how different birds find food. (wading, diving, flying over water, picking under rocks or off of bushes)
- What foods for wildlife did we see in the video (berries, insects, fish)?
- What are some of the things people have done to help the Delta Ponds? (planting, weeding, counting and measuring plants and animals)
- The water for Delta Ponds comes from the river, and it is important that this water stays clean for all the plants and animals. What do you think would happen if the water did not stay clean?

### Oregon State Department of Education Standards by Design

#### *First grade goals:*

- 1.1L.1 Compare and contrast characteristics among individuals within one plant or animal group.
- 1.2L.1 Describe the basic needs of living things.
- 1.3S.1 Identify and use tools to make careful observations and answer questions about the natural world.

#### *Second grade goals:*

- 2.1L.1 Compare and contrast characteristics and behaviors of plants and animals and the environments where they live.

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## For the Teacher: Delta Ponds Park Background

In 2012, The City of Eugene completed an eight-year restoration of the abandoned gravel pits known as Delta Ponds. This process transformed the deep-edged pits that were overgrown with invasive blackberries into ponds with sloping sides and wildlife-friendly trees and native plants. The restoration also re-connected the ponds to the Willamette River, so that fresh water could circulate in a natural pattern and provide important side channel habitat to young salmon, beavers, river otters and more.

The completed 150-acre park also includes walking trails and interpretive signage that make it easy for families and groups to explore the natural environment. Convenient parking is available along Goodpasture Island Road. In 2013, Metro TV created a 7-minute video about habitat restoration at the park—find it at: <http://vimeo.com/28513274>

# At the Pond

Draw three animals that you might see at a pond and write their names below!

