

# Pond Parts at Work

Find the living and nonliving parts of a pond ecosystem.

**3.5.a** "ecosystems are made of living and nonliving components of the environment; and"

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline each living component named in the passage and circle each nonliving component. Number each sentence that tells how a nonliving component affects a living thing.

### A Pond Ecosystem

- ① At the edge of a pond, water, mud, sunlight, and air help make the place an ecosystem. An ecosystem includes living things and nonliving parts that affect them. The pond's water gives animals a place to swim. Sunlight warms the water and gives green plants energy to grow. Mud holds water and can provide a place for roots to grow.
- ② Frogs, fish, snails, and cattails are living components of this pond ecosystem. They need food, water, air, and suitable shelter. A frog may rest among cattail stems, while a snail may eat algae growing in the water. These living things depend on nonliving components. For example, fish take oxygen from the water, and cattails need sunlight and mud.
- ③ The parts of an ecosystem work together. After several dry weeks, a pond may have less water. Fish have less space to swim, and some plants near the edge may dry out. If clouds block sunlight for many days, plants may grow more slowly. With fewer plants, animals may have less food or shelter. A change in a nonliving component can affect living components.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** List two living components and two nonliving components in the pond ecosystem.

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**2** How does water help fish, according to the passage?

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**3** What two changes may happen after several dry weeks make the pond have less water?

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**4** Why can many cloudy days affect animals in the pond?

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

Choose a forest, yard, or beach ecosystem that is not the pond. Fill all four rows with parts of that ecosystem, including at least two living components and two nonliving components, and tell how each part helps or affects another part.

| COMPONENT | LIVING OR NONLIVING? | HOW IT HELPS OR AFFECTS ANOTHER PART |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
|           |                      |                                      |
|           |                      |                                      |
|           |                      |                                      |
|           |                      |                                      |

**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline each living component named in the passage and circle each nonliving component. Number each sentence that tells how a nonliving component affects a living thing. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                           | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                 |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | List two living components and two nonliving components in the pond ecosystem.     | <b>Living components may include frogs, fish, snails, cattails, and algae. Nonliving components may include water, mud, sunlight, air, and oxygen.</b> |
| 2 | How does water help fish, according to the passage?                                | <b>Water gives fish a place to swim, and fish take oxygen from the water.</b>                                                                          |
| 3 | What two changes may happen after several dry weeks make the pond have less water? | <b>Fish have less space to swim, and some plants near the pond edge may dry out.</b>                                                                   |
| 4 | Why can many cloudy days affect animals in the pond?                               | <b>Clouds can block sunlight, so plants may grow more slowly. With fewer plants, animals may have less food or shelter.</b>                            |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

| COMPONENT | LIVING OR NONLIVING? | HOW IT HELPS OR AFFECTS ANOTHER PART |
|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Grass     | Living               | Makes food and shelter for insects.  |
| Ant       | Living               | Uses soil to make a home.            |
| Sunlight  | Nonliving            | Gives grass energy to grow.          |
| Soil      | Nonliving            | Holds water for grass roots.         |

Accept other accurate living and nonliving examples from the passage. For the open task, accept any accurate ecosystem components and a sensible relationship between each component and another part.