

The Secret Pool

RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY SAME BUT DIFFERENT

There are actually two types of vernal pools in the US. One occurs specifically on the west coast and the other can occur throughout the US. Have students research both types and compare the similarities and differences. Which type of vernal pool would be most likely to occur in your region? Can a vernal pool be supported where you live? Why or why not?



TECHNOLOGY

Log on to www.sacsplash.org/video/huell-howser-visits-vernal-pools-mather-field for an in-depth look into the vernal pools of California.

ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY, CREATIVE WRITING CREATURE COMMERCIALS

Have students choose one animal from the vernal pool environment to research. Once they have gathered information, students should create a 30 second commercial that would give viewers a concise overview of their animal. If possible, record each commercial and have students present them to the class during transitional moments when they need a “commercial break.”

ART VERNAL VIEWINGS

Vernal means “occurring in spring.” Have students make a list of other events that happen in the spring. How are they similar to what happens within the vernal pool? Let each student choose one event to illustrate. Compile student illustrations to create a vernal viewings display.

MATH, TECHNOLOGY SIZE IT UP!

Have students choose at least 6 different animals represented in the text. Using the internet or reference books, find the average length of each of the 10 animals in inches. Once the inches have been found, students should convert the measurements into centimeters and millimeters. For an added challenge, have students find a classroom object that is approximately the same size as each of the animals they chose to measure.

CREATIVE WRITING POOL POETRY

Choose one animal from the text to create a poem around. The poem can be acrostic, rhyming, diamante, or a haiku. Have students illustrate their poems. For older students, have them research facts about their animals to include in the poem.

