

The Secret Pool

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Habitats, Ecology, Animals, Life Cycles

Book Brief: What's the secret behind the small pools of water that appear during the spring and disappear at the end of summer? This book explores the many creatures that live in or depend on these *vernal pools*.

Author:
Kimberly Ridley

Illustrator:
Rebekah Raye

Content Connections:
Science, Geography



TIME TO READ!



BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: How many different animals can you identify on the cover? How do they give you clues

about what the secret pool might be?

The Pictures: What time of the year do you see most of the animals that are in the pictures?

Prior Knowledge: Explain that there are places where pools of water form in the spring and dry up in the

fall. These pools of water are called "vernal" pools and they actually support quite a bit of animal life.

Vocabulary: bogs, vernal; a glossary is also provided at the end of this text.

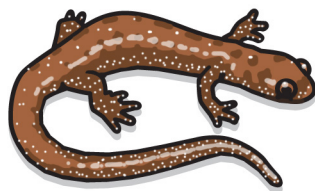
Purpose for Reading: As we read, think about how the vernal pool follows a sequence much like that of an animal's life cycle. Be prepared to explain the sequence of events that make up a vernal pool's existence.



WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ Who is telling the story?
- ◆ What is the difference between a puddle and vernal pool?



- ◆ Why do the salamanders only come out at night?
- ◆ How do you think the fairy shrimp got its name?
- ◆ What irony can you find in the bullfrogs' snacking habits?
- ◆ Do vernal pools occur in the same places each year?

LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Choose a season and describe the sequence of events that occur with a vernal pool throughout the year.

Extending Our Thinking: How would you summarize the importance of a vernal pool? Which animal's perspective would you choose to tell the story of the secret pool? Explain how it might change the story.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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