

The Secret Pool

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, make

predictions: What do you think the author means by the title? Where might you find this type of pool?

While reading, make

connections: What area

where you live might be the home to this type of pool? Have you ever noticed small animals living in places that surprised you? Which animals in the book have you seen or heard before?

After reading, extend your thinking:

- ◆ What surprised you most about some of the animals in the book?
- ◆ Explain the importance of the vernal pool.
- ◆ How does a vernal pool change throughout the seasons?

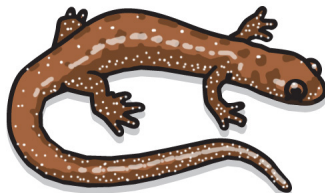


RELATED ACTIVITIES

SWIRLY SALAMANDERS

Materials: newspaper, 9x13 pan, water, acrylic paint, dishwashing liquid, toothpicks, heavy paper

Lay out newspaper to protect working area. Fill pan with water. Add a couple drops of dishwashing liquid to water. Drop small amounts of paint onto the water surface. Use toothpicks to make swirls with the paint. When finished, lay paper on top of water surface to "catch" the paint. Lift up and let dry. Do you think your swirls resemble the description of the salamanders in the book? Explain.



POOL PARTY

Materials: flashlights, binoculars or magnifying glasses

Invite some friends over for a vernal pool party. Gather your gear and set out on a search for vernal pools in your area. Remember, vernal pools are in low lying areas and occur in the spring. If you cannot find a vernal pool, look for other evidence of small animals in your area.

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Log on to <https://www.blm.gov/blog/2020-04-07/vernal-pools-preserve-californias-natural-landscape> for an in-depth look into the vernal pools of California.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT NATURE

North: The Amazing Story of Arctic Migration, Nick Dowson (2011)

Big Night for Salamanders, Sarah Marwil Lamstein (2010)

Under the Snow, Melissa Stewart (2009)



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