



THANK YOU FOR READING AND SUPPORTING OUR NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION PROGRAM

We have been notified by the provider of this page that they are retiring
and will no longer be producing the *World of Wonder* feature.

WORLD OF WONDER

Exploring the realms of history, science, nature and technology

LIFE IN A POND

Is there anything more wonderful than sitting quietly by a pond, listening to the rustling of reeds and the buzzing of insects? These delicate freshwater ecosystems are home to a diverse group of plants and animals.



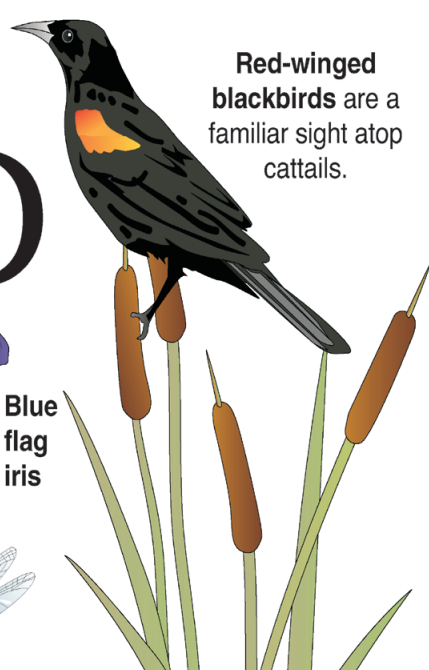
Emergent plants, such as **arrowheads** and **reeds**, live at the edges of ponds.

Wood ducks nest in trees near water. When it's time, the ducklings will jump into the pond.

The **red-eared terrapin** is a turtle that prefers to live in still or slow-flowing water with plenty of underwater vegetation. It likes to sun itself on rocks and logs.



Blue flag iris



Red-winged blackbirds are a familiar sight atop cattails.

Saying goodbye

It is with gratitude and thanks that I say goodbye to World of Wonder readers around the globe. I have been drawing, researching and writing this amazing feature since its creation in 1997. It has been an amazing task, one filled with love and the adventure of learning.

World of Wonder came to be as a way to reach young newspaper readers. In the early years, while I attempted to sell my feature, some friends and family could not understand why I persevered and teasingly called it World of Blunder. Despite the naysayers, I believed in the project and continued to create a page a week, while holding down full-time journalism work.

The first newspaper to run World of Wonder was the The Republican (Springfield, Massachusetts), and they have continued to publish the feature to this final day.

The feature began syndication with United Media in 2000, and before long, it was seen in more than 100 newspapers around the world. In 2008, Quill Driver Press published two compilations, "Plants & Animals" and "People & Places."

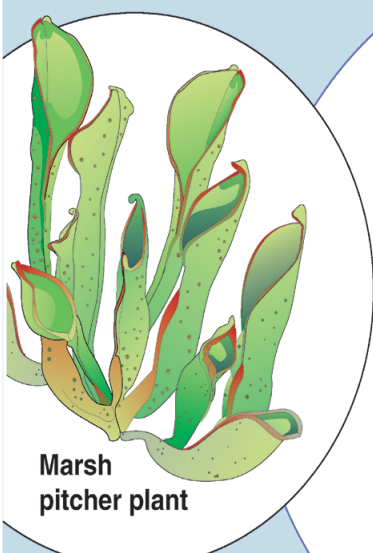
To my surprise, World of Wonder was popular with readers of all ages. Teachers around the world embraced the page as a teaching tool. One parent wrote that their 7-year-old daughter woke on Sundays shouting, "It's World of Wonder day!" That little girl is all grown up now.

There is not room here to thank the many people who helped make WoW possible over the years, but I would like to send a special shout out to Ryan Rice, Clint Hooker, Amy Lago, Lisa Klem Wilson and Helen Driggs.

The decision to end the feature after 29 years did not come easily, but the time has come to travel and relax.

Thank you, Laurie Triefeldt

Water striders or **pond skaters** use their front legs to catch prey, their middle legs to paddle and their back legs to steer.



Marsh pitcher plant

Plants play a vital role in the ecosystem of a pond, providing food and a habitat for aquatic creatures.

Wild celery is an underwater or **submersive plant** that spreads by runners and sometimes spreads into tall, underwater meadows.

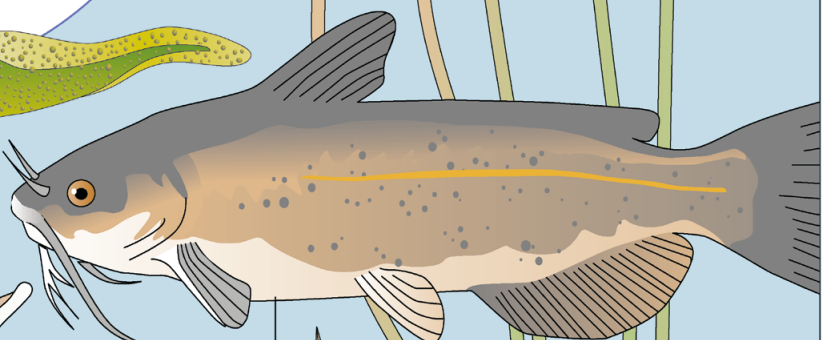
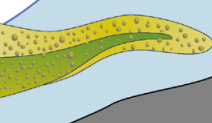
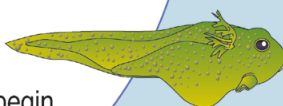
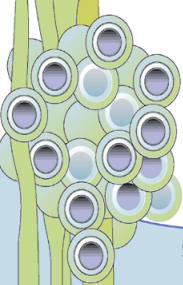


Frogs eat insects, small fish and snails. Frogs are food for snakes, lizards, birds and various small mammals. Many frog populations are in decline, possibly due to pollution.

Diving beetles live in fresh water and feed on snails, tadpoles and small fish. They have wings and can fly from pond to pond.



Frog eggs begin as single cells.

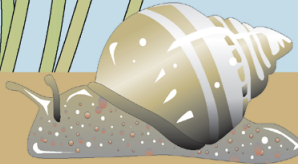


Channel catfish have excellent smell and taste receptors. They are found in rivers, lakes and ponds. Males often darken in color when spawning.

Largemouth bass belong to the sunfish family. They feed on minnows, smaller sunfish, crayfish and frogs.

Ponds are also full of **microorganisms** that can only be seen with a microscope.

Pond snails eat mostly plants, but as scavengers, they also eat dead plant and animal matter.



SOURCES: World Book Encyclopedia, World Book Inc.; <https://en.wikipedia.org>; <https://www.britannica.com>; <https://www.nhm.ac.uk>; <https://www.enchantedlearning.com>; <https://www.acornnaturalists.com>

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We are incredibly grateful to our loyal readers, teachers, students and supporters who have made this program such a success over the years. While this marks the end of *World of Wonder*, we are actively working on a new solution to continue providing engaging educational content in a fresh and exciting way.

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Thank you for your continued support.
We look forward to sharing what's next with you soon!