

# What's in a Pond?

*An Educational Exploration of Pond Ecosystems at Hidden Valley Orchards*

## Grade Level Lesson Plan Overview:

Our "What's in a Pond?" field trip unit offers students an exciting opportunity to explore and learn about the diverse life within a pond ecosystem. In accordance with Ohio's Learning Standards, this educational experience will help students gain a deeper appreciation for ecosystems and the role water plays in supporting life. Below, you will find the learning objectives for each grade level, highlighting the key science standards covered during the field trip.

### Grade 3

- **Life Science:** Study the life cycles of organisms and their habitats (e.g., stages of frog development observed in pond life).
- **Earth Science:** Explore how water sources, such as ponds, contribute to an ecosystem and are part of natural processes.

### Grade 4

- **Life Science:** Examine the relationship between plants, animals, and the environment (e.g., plants providing oxygen and shelter in the pond).
- **Earth Science:** Understand ecosystems and the interconnectedness of organisms in habitats like ponds.

### Grade 5

- **Life Science:** Analyze food chains and webs within the pond ecosystem (e.g., small insects as prey for fish or frogs).
- **Physical Science:** Investigate properties of water and its significance for pond organisms' survival.