

An educational pond for a primary school

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Pupils from a primary school in the small village of Châteauneuf in France have constructed an educational pond in their school grounds.

First they visited the river next to the school to investigate the plants and animals that lived there. Then they studied a natural pond in a similar way. The next step was to construct the pond themselves; this involved measurement, planing, digging, modelling, laying the impermeable membrane, filling the pond with water and then the planting of aquatic plants and the release of aquatic insects. Pupils were involved in every stage of planning and construction. The project offered wonderful opportunities for all aspects of education, from maths to construction and from biology to reading.

The new pond, as well as being a very aesthetically pleasing addition to the school and its grounds, is above all a place for the scientific observation of aquatic fauna and flora that is accessible both teachers and pupils. There they have the opportunity to record changes over the year and engage with the scientific importance of the changes they record.