

Post 22

DITCHES LANE POND

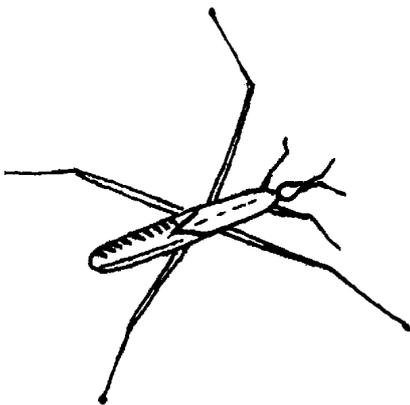
This pond was originally dug to provide water for livestock. At one time it almost dried out from lack of maintenance, but is now regularly cleared. In the spring and summer you may be able to see some of these water creatures from the pond's edge, but be careful not to go too close to the water!

See how many you can spot.

Pond skater

These move on the water surface using their middle legs as oars and their hind legs for steering

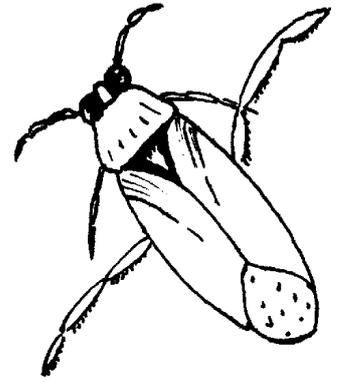
5 points



Water boatman

These are bugs and, because they have no gills, have to surface often to collect an air bubble to breathe underwater.

10 points



Water beetle

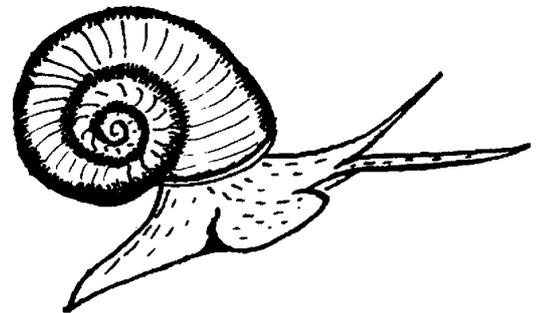
These are carnivorous, living on tadpoles and small fish which they catch with their strong jaws

5 points

Ramshorn snail

These are common & easily recognised as their shells are coiled flat and never raised into a spire.

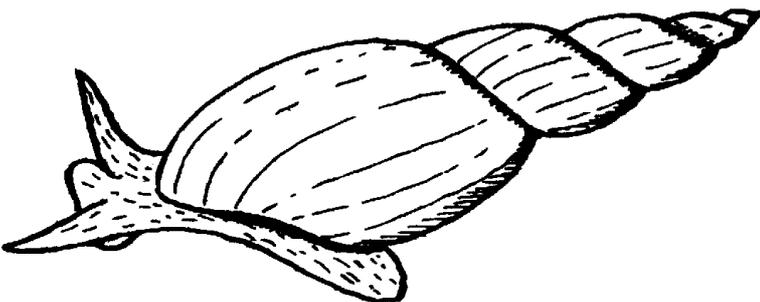
5 points



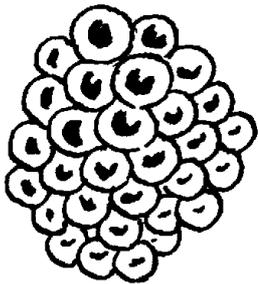
Great pond snail

Water snails feed mostly on algae, but the great pond snail can eat newts and sticklebacks!

10 points



Freshwater animals usually hatch from eggs, and in the spring various kinds of egg can sometimes be found. **See if you can spot those shown below.**



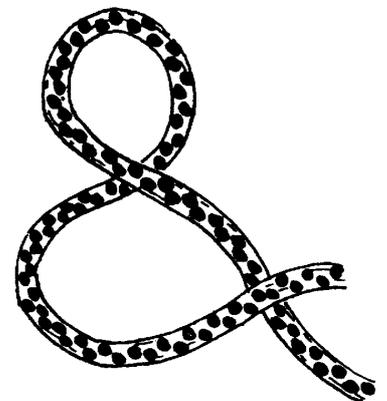
Frog spawn

Frogs produce masses of round eggs each with a black dot in the middle which will become a tadpole. Frogs breed from February until April, returning to the same site each year. They prefer shallow water in full sunlight. **5 points**

Toad spawn

Unlike frog spawn, toad spawn is found in deeper water. The eggs are laid gradually as the female moves about entangling long strings of jelly around the water plants. Each string can be as long as 3m

10 points



Continue along the path round to the right, through the horse barrier and into Bluebell Shaw to post 23.

(see map below)

NATURE TRAIL MAP

