

The Pond

Friends of Easter
Craiglockhart Hill



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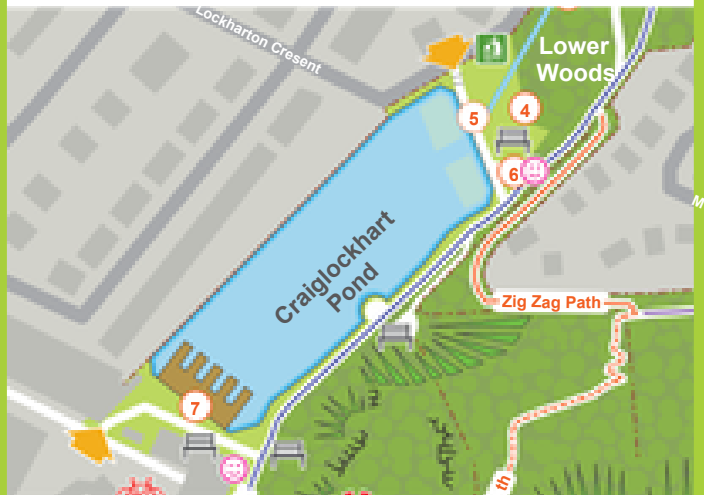
Waterbirds ID Sheet

Continue at home

- Document the trip in a journal, poster, or report.
- Create artistic representations of the plants and animals found at the pond.
- Use the data from the survey to practice creating graphs and statistics

About the area

The pond was originally built for boating in 1887, and is now a haven for water birds. Along the northeast edge there is a stone causeway leading to Lockharton Crescent. The causeway separates the pond from the marsh. At the south west end of the pond, there is a grassy area with wooden pontoons that extend into the water.



How to get there

The pond can be accessed by entrances through the Craiglockhart Leisure Centre or on Lockharton Crescent. The number 45, 10 or 27 bring you to Colinton road. Alight at the Craiglockhart Sports Centre bus stop to access the Leisure Centre entrance, or alight at the Perdricknowe stop to get onto Lockharton Crescent.

Safety Check!

Sessions around the pond mean access to open water, make sure this is added to your risk assessment!



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Activity Guide: Pond Dipping

At the water's edge, take groups of no more than 8 children onto the pontoons. Each child takes a net. Share one tray between two children.

- ! Children should lie or kneel at the waterside to do the activity; this reduces the chance of falling in!



As well as looking at the mini-beasts you find while pond dipping, keep an eye out for other wildlife around the pond. There are all sorts of water birds and flying invertebrates about and there have even occasionally been otters splashing around!

- Half fill the trays with pond water and place them on the ground within easy reach.
- Dip by gently placing the net in the water, and moving it in a figure of eight. It is best to do it near plants, and try not to put the net so far in that it disturbs or collects the mud.
- Carefully bring the net out of the water, gently turn it inside out into the tray of water, and let the creatures swim out.
- Once you've finished, gently pour the contents of the tray back into the pond and give the tray and net a quick rinse.

You can also go dipping at the stone causeway, into the marsh or the pond, but please be aware that this is a heavily used path.

The marsh is accessible from the north east side through the woods. Wear wellies to enter it, and be careful of trampling the plants - there are some rare flowers such as marsh orchids that grow there.

There is also a small burn that runs out of the marsh - try gently turning over rocks and logs that are resting in the burn to see if there are any mini-beasts hiding underneath!

Follow up outdoor activities

- Go dipping in both the pond and the marsh and use the Habitats and Ecosystems worksheet to compare the mini-beasts found in each place.
- Use the survey worksheet to record all mini-beast findings.
- Discuss the life cycles of the creatures you've found, and use the life cycles worksheet to draw out the entire life cycle.

Kit list

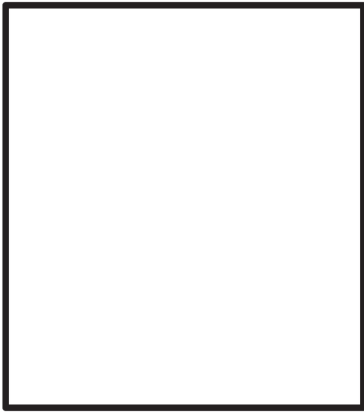
- Nets
- Trays
- Pots
- Magnifiers
- Worksheets
- Pens/
pencils

The Pond: Habitats and Ecosystems Worksheet

Draw every type of invertebrate that you find. Note down any interesting features you can see. How do they move? Are they slow or fast? Do they swim or crawl?

What might they eat? Can you see any antennae, pincers, or markings on their skin or shell? Collect invertebrates from different habitats and compare them. How do you think their differences help them in their habitats?

Name:



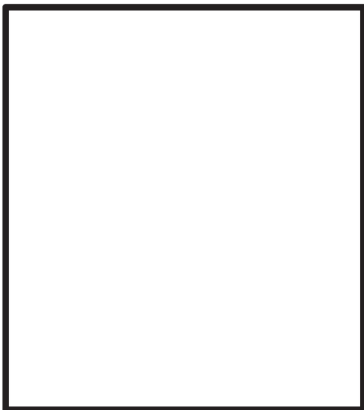
Habitat:
Number of legs:
Colour:
Any other features?

Name:



Habitat:
Number of legs:
Colour:
Any other features?

Name:



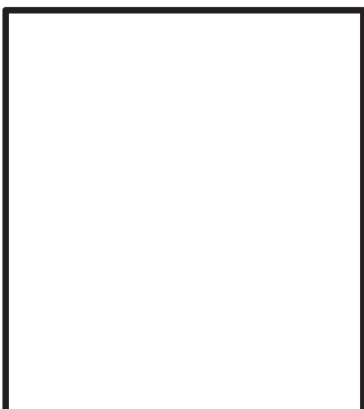
Habitat:
Number of legs:
Colour:
Any other features?

Name:



Habitat:
Number of legs:
Colour:
Any other features?

Name:



Habitat:
Number of legs:
Colour:
Any other features?

Name:



Habitat:
Number of legs:
Colour:
Any other features?

The Pond: Pondlife Survey Worksheet

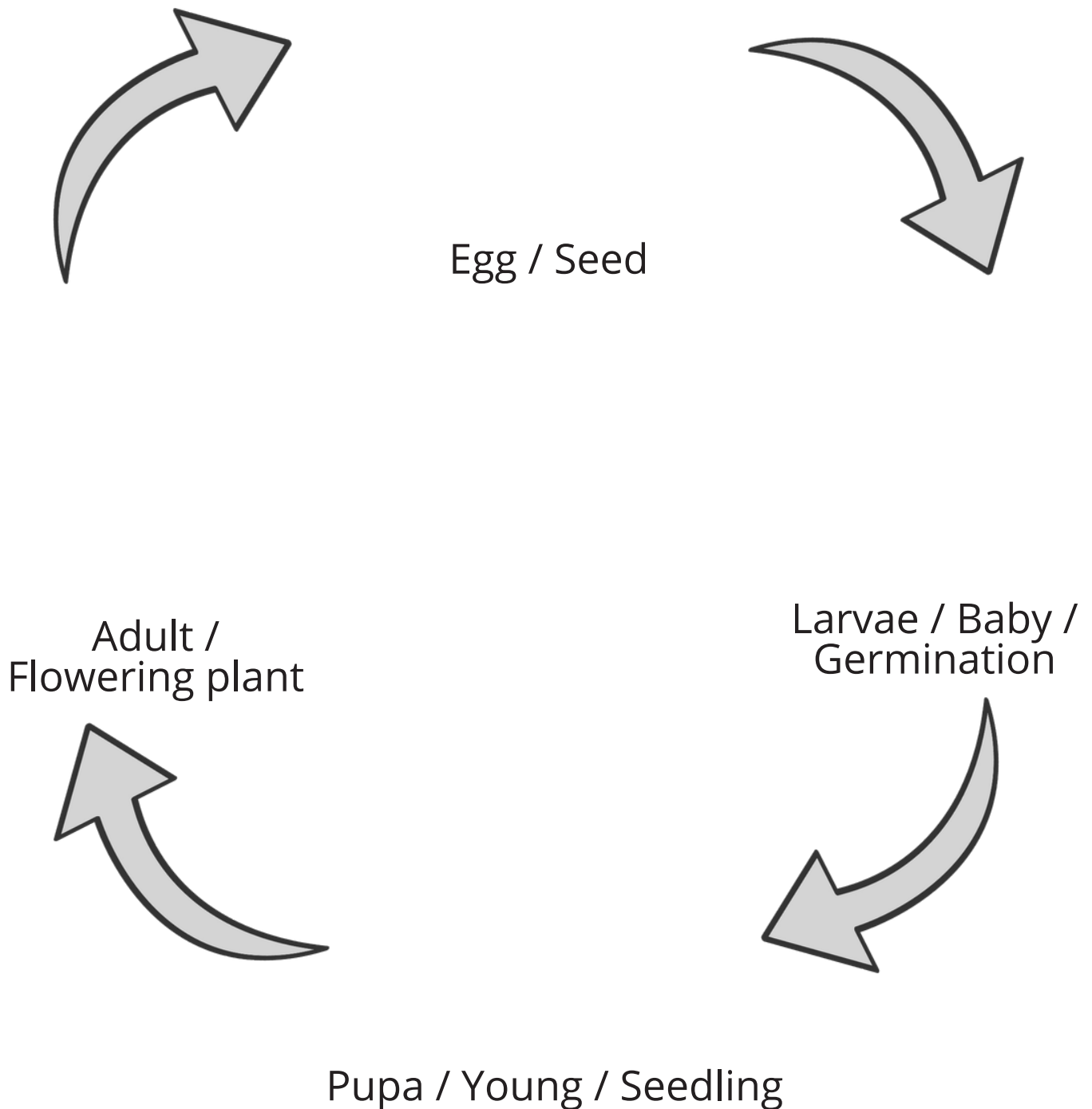
Using an ID sheet or book, take a tally of every pond animal that you can positively identify. Make sure you record which type of habitat your creatures live in.

Habitat:

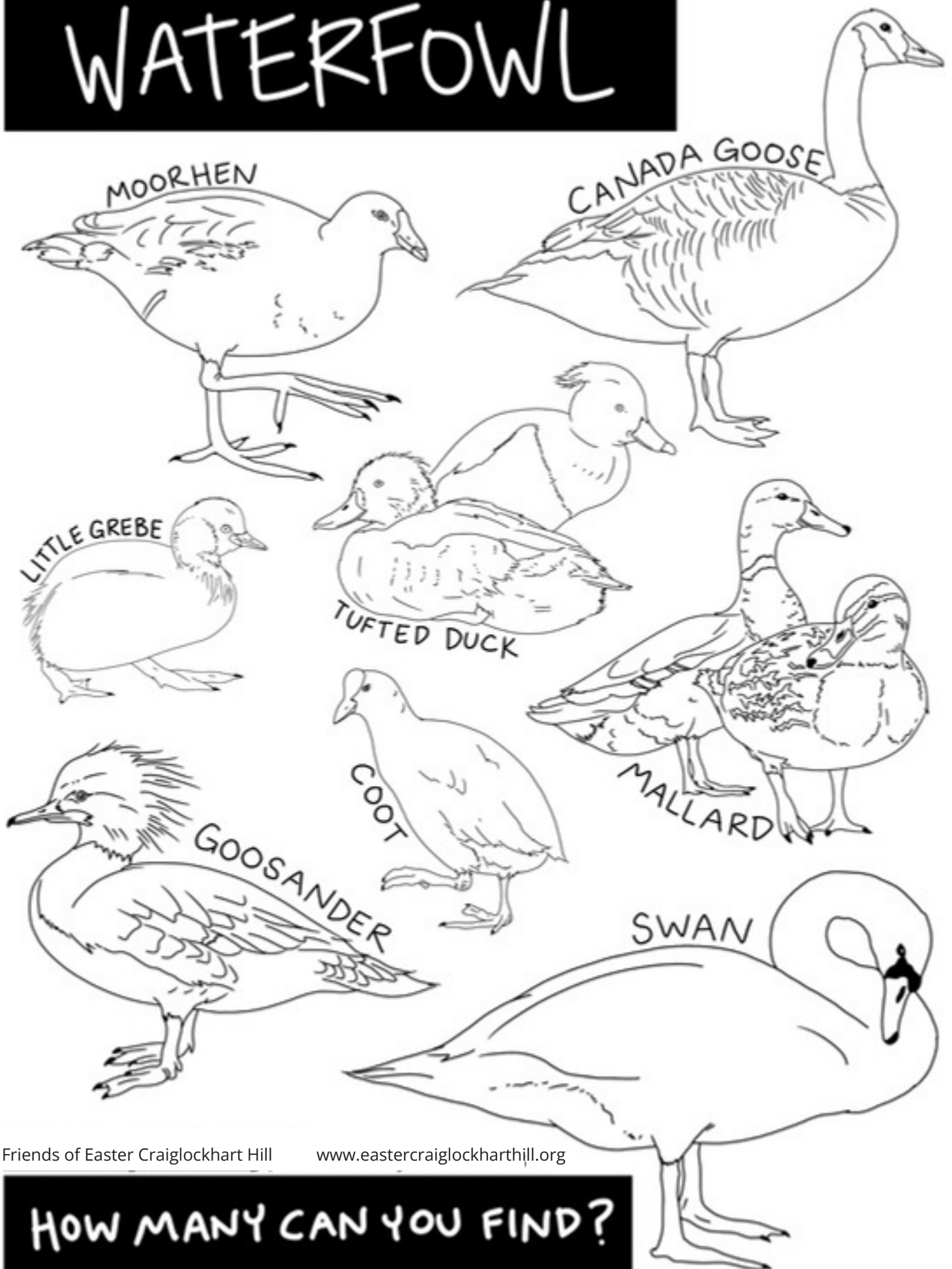
Pond Animal	Tally	Total

The Pond: Life Cycle Worksheet

Pick an animal or plant you have found at the pond. What stage of life do you think it is in? Draw the whole life cycle. What season did you find your animal in? How long do you think it will be before it starts the next stage of it's life cycle?



EASTER CRAIGLOCKHART HILL WATERFOWL



Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill

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HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?