What Lives in a Pond?

A pond is a body of freshwater. It is usually smaller than a lake. Ponds are not as deep as lakes are. Water in a river or a stream moves, but pond water stays still.

A pond is a habitat. A habitat is a place in nature where animals and plants live. Ponds are home to lots of living things.

Many animals live in, above, or near ponds. Fish, turtles, and snails live *in* the water. Ducks and other birds live *above* the water. Other animals live near ponds. Those animals include frogs, beavers, and muskrats.

Plants live in ponds, too. Cattails and algae are two kinds of plants often found in ponds. Another plant that lives in ponds is the water lily. Its roots go to the bottom of the pond. Its wide leaves float on top of the water.

1. What might be a reason that lots of plants and animals live in and around ponds?

    A. Ponds are not as deep as lakes.

    B. A habitat is a place where plants and animals live.

    C. Plants and animals need water.

2. Read these sentences from the text.

"A pond is a habitat. A habitat is a place in nature where animals and plants live."

What evidence from the article supports the idea that a pond is a habitat?

    A. "Cattails and algae are two kinds of plants often found in ponds."

    B. "Water in a river or a stream moves, but pond water stays still."

    C. "A pond is a body of fresh water. It is usually smaller than a lake."

3. Read this paragraph from the article.

"A pond is a habitat. A habitat is a place in nature where animals and plants live. Ponds are home to lots of living things."

What does it mean that ponds **"are home to lots of living things"**?

    A. Lots of living things live in ponds.

    B. Lots of living things move from one place to another.

    C. Lots of houses are built by ponds.

4. Could a river be a habitat? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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