



Skills

- 1 Look at the pictures around the pond. Read the magazine article and match the pictures with the paragraphs.

Have you ever taken a look at the wildlife that lives in and around ponds? Beautiful birds, amazing mammals, and fascinating insects can all be found. Did you know that some of them, like dragonflies, have been on Earth since the days of the dinosaurs? Take a closer look at this wonderful world.



- ☐ **a** Mallards are very common on British ponds. You can identify these beautiful ducks by their green heads. You will often see them with their heads under the water as they look for tadpoles and small fish to eat.
- ☐ **b** Newts come from the same family as frogs. They lay eggs in the water like frogs, but their babies aren't called tadpoles. They're called larva. They don't have strong legs, so they can't jump around like frogs, but they have long, powerful tails.
- ☐ **c** A quick blue flash is all that most people see of a kingfisher. These beautiful water birds are very shy, and they will fly away quickly if you make too much noise. Sadly, these birds are becoming more and more difficult to find in the U.K.
- ☐ **d** If you are quiet, you might be lucky to see a heron standing still beside a pond. These tall gray birds with long legs wait patiently until they see something to eat. Then they poke their long beaks quickly into the water to catch the fish.

- ☐ **e** Many people think that water voles are rats when they see them, but water voles are much rarer than rats and they're shy, too. They live in holes by the sides of rivers and ponds, where they eat the grass and plants that grow close to the water.
- ☐ **f** Dragonflies come in many different colors. You will see these beautiful insects flying over the water in ponds and streams. Sometimes they will land on a leaf for a while. Look closely, and you will see that they have four wings.
- ☐ **g** Water boatmen are also called "backswimmers." This is because they swim upside-down on their backs. These insects move quickly across the top of the pond, and they look like they are walking on water.
- ☐ **h** Sticklebacks are small fish that are commonly found in ponds and streams. They are called sticklebacks because they have tiny spikes on their backs. They don't have scales like most other kinds of fish.