

Homemade tools can help students to better connect with and explore nature.

Pond dipping is a fun way to observe the many creatures that live in ponds, streams or other water bodies.

There is something magical about dipping into a pond to see what you might find. Even more gratifying is making your own dip net. Here are some easy steps to get you started:

Materials:

- 1 pair of tights/nylons or 30 cm square of cheesecloth
- 1 wire coat hanger
- Duct tape
- Stick or bamboo cane ~1 meter long
- Needle and strong thread



How to Assemble the Dip Net in 5 Easy Steps:

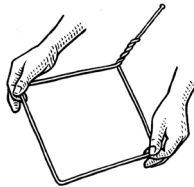
Step 1:

Making the net. Remove two thirds of the legs from the tights with the scissors. Tie the remaining leg material together to create a net.



Step 2:

Reshaping your hanger. Reshape the coat hanger to make a square wire frame. Straighten the hook –this will be the handle.



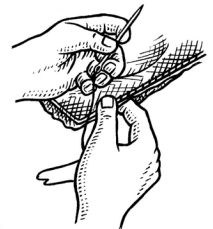
Step 3:

Put the net on the handle. Stretch the elastic waist of the tights over the square coat hanger frame to create the dipping end of the net.



Step 4:

Secure the net. You will need to secure the tights to the frame. Wrap the material around the wire and carefully stitch it to itself.



Step 5:

Attach wire to a stick. Either use duct tape to fasten to a stick or push the straightened wire into the bamboo cane. Secure with duct tape.



How to use the Net:

Fill a white container with water. Gently but quickly sweep the net through the water or through plants growing in the water. After each sweep, empty the contents of the net into the container. Keep the containers in the shade so the animals don't get too hot. After you have finished observing the animals in the container, place the container in the water and gently let the animals go.

Adapted from:

Water Stewardship a Guide For Teachers

<https://www.hctfeducation.ca/product/water-stewardship-a-guide-for-teachers-students-and-community-groups/>

<https://www.countryfile.com/how-to/outdoor-skills/make-a-pond-dipping-net/>

