

PSSA and Keystone Exams  
Fall 2015  
Item Writing and Handscoring Training Workshops

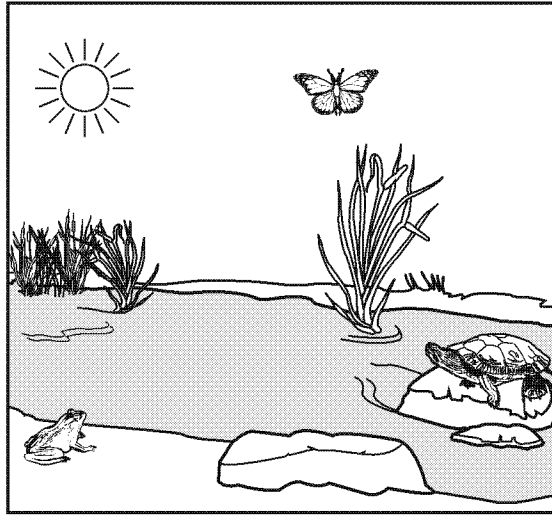
# PSSA, Grade 4 Science

*Community Pond*

Handscoring  
Anchor Set

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Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

**Part A:** Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

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**Part B:** Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

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Community Pond Scoring Guide

2	<p>The response demonstrates a <i>thorough</i> understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying one living and one nonliving thing at the pond <b>AND</b></li> <li>describing one role of the nonliving thing identified.</li> </ul> <p>The response is clear, complete, and correct.</p>
1	<p>The response demonstrates a <i>partial</i> understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identifying one living and one nonliving thing at the pond <b>OR</b></li> <li>describing one role of the nonliving thing identified.</li> </ul> <p>The response may contain some work that is incomplete or unclear.</p>
0	<p>The response provides <i>insufficient</i> evidence to demonstrate any understanding of the concept being tested.</p>

**Note:** No deductions should be taken for misspelled words or grammatical errors.

**Responses that will receive credit:**

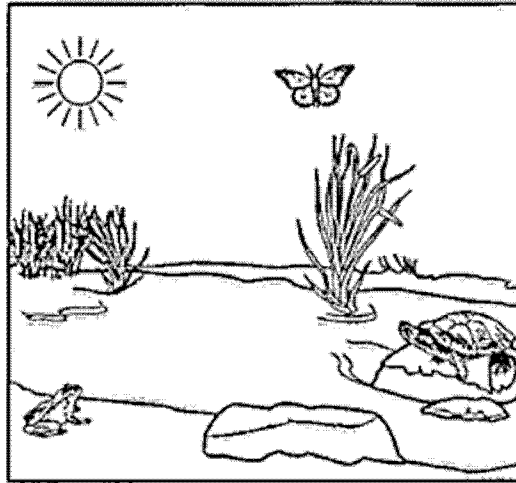
**Part A (1 point):** One living and one nonliving thing

- *Living:* The aquatic plants are an example of a living thing.
- *Nonliving:* The sunlight is an example of a nonliving thing.
- *Other living things:* frog, turtle, or butterfly
- *Other nonliving things:* rocks, air, water, or soil

**Part B (1 point):** One role of the nonliving thing

- The sunlight provides energy for the plants to do photosynthesis.
- The rocks provide a place for the turtle to perch.
- The air provides oxygen for the plants, turtle and frog.
- The water provides a place for the frog and turtle to live.
- The soil provides nutrients for the plants.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One living thing by the pond is the animals like the frog and the turtle. One nonliving thing by the park is a rock because rocks do not move or breath.

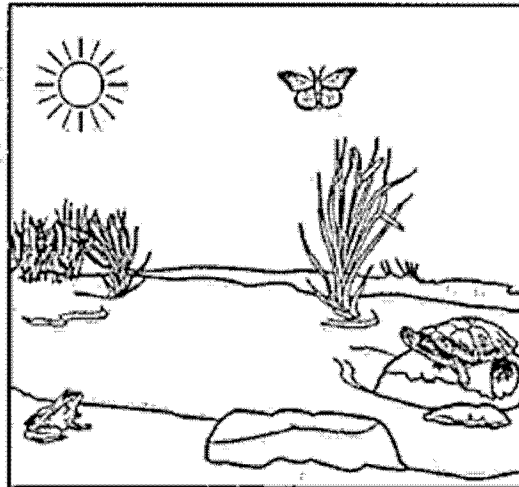
Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The role of a rock in an ecosystem is so the turtle and frog can rest on it. They need that so they can sit in the sun on a dry surface.

#### A1-Score Point 2

The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing both tasks presented. The student identifies the frog and turtle as living and the rock as nonliving. The description why the rock is nonliving is not necessary for credit. The student goes on to describe the role of the rock in the ecosystem (*the turtle and frog can rest on it or they need that so they can sit in the sun*). The response is clear and correct.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One nonliving thing at the pond is the sun. One living thing at the pond is the turtle.

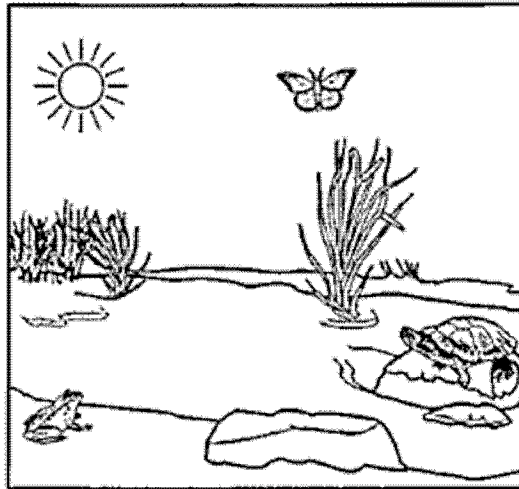
Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The sun keeps the plants growing and the animals alive because the living things need the plants for food to eat.

#### A2-Score Point 2

The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing both tasks presented. The student identifies the sun as nonliving and the turtle as living. The role of the sun (*keeps the plants growing*) is limited, but sufficient for the given task. The additional description strengthens the answer, but is not necessary for credit. This response is complete and correct.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One living thing at the pond would be a turtle. One nonliving thing would be a rock.

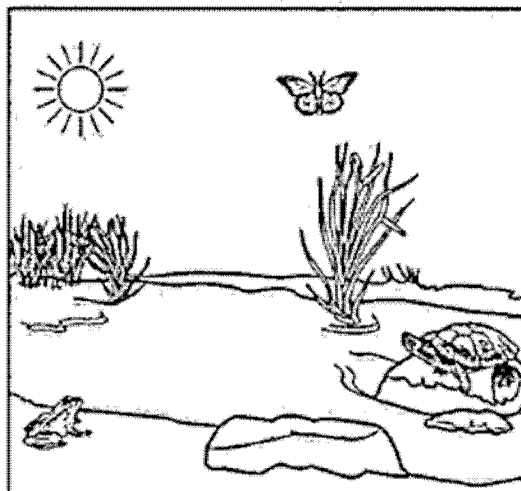
Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The role of the water is to be a habitat for the animals.

#### A-3 Score Point 2

The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing both tasks presented. The turtle is identified as living and the rock is identified as nonliving. The role of a nonliving thing (*water*) is described (*is to be a habitat for animals*). The student does not need to describe the role of the nonliving thing identified in Part A. This response is complete and correct.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

Turtle water

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

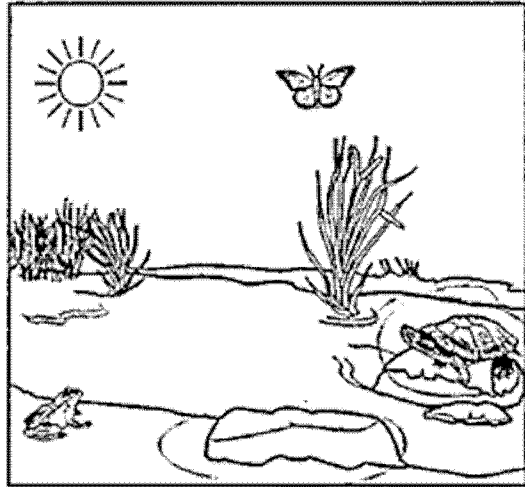
The water is a habitat and a  
place to get a drink for  
animals

#### A-4 Score Point 2

The response demonstrates a thorough understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing both tasks presented. The turtle is identified as living and the water is identified as nonliving. A response that does not have the things labeled can be accepted as long as they written in the same order as the prompt (living then nonliving). The student clarifies his/her response further by describing the role of water in the pond ecosystem (is a *habitat* and a *place to get a drink for animals*). This response is complete and receives full credit.



Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One thing living in the pond is a turtle.  
Also, one nonliving thing I see in the pond  
is a rock.

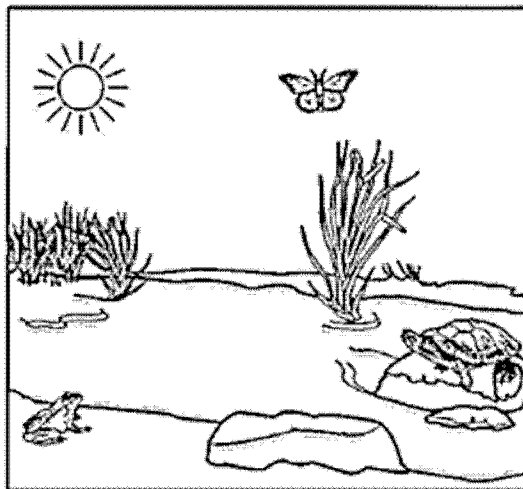
Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

One nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem  
is a rock because a rock doesn't swim, grow,  
or walk. Also it doesn't help the animals in  
any way.

#### A-5 Score Point 1

The response demonstrates a partial understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing one of the tasks presented. The student correctly identifies the turtle as a living thing and the rock as a nonliving thing. There is no additional credit earned for describing a role of a nonliving thing because the student describes why the rock would be considered nonliving without giving its role. This response is incomplete and receives one point.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One living thing is a frog.

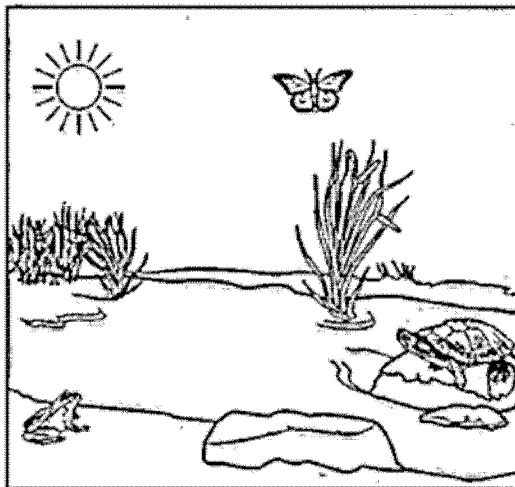
Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

One nonliving thing is a rock.

#### A-6 Score Point 1

The response demonstrates a partial understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing one of the tasks presented. The student correctly identifies a living (*frog*) and nonliving (*rock*) thing. Though the response does not appear in the correct box, the student clearly identifies the rock as nonliving. There is no attempt at describing the role of the rock so no additional credit is earned. The response is incomplete and receives partial credit.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

A rock.

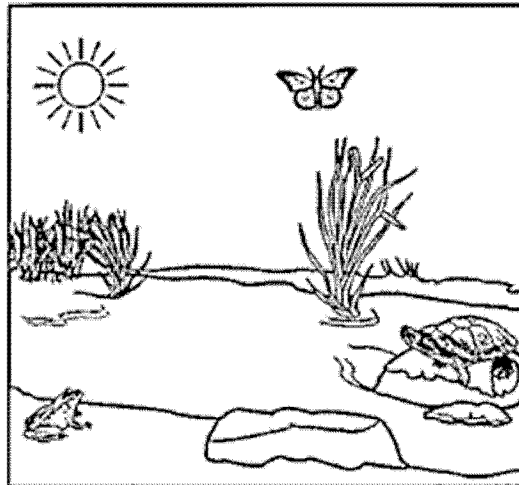
Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The water. It's home to the fish and tadpoles.  
It also gives drinks to the creatures, and  
it helps the amphibians stay alive.

**A-7 Score point 1**

The response demonstrates a partial understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing one of the tasks presented. The student has identified rock, but given no indication whether it is living or nonliving. The description of the role of water in the ecosystem is correct (*it's home to the fish and tadpoles* or *it gives drinks to the creatures*). The response is incomplete and receives one point for the part B response.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

Living  
turtle

nonliving  
Rocks

water

frog

butterfly

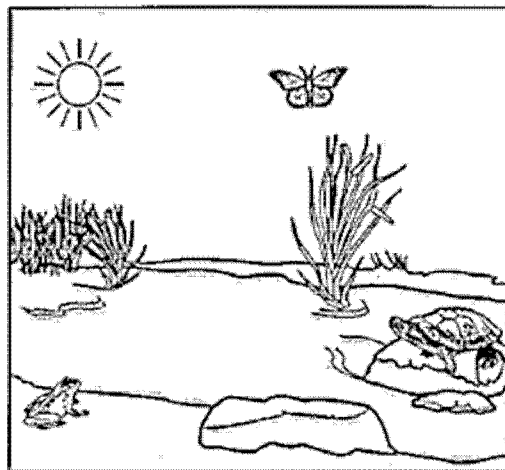
Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

Rocks are nonliving they do not  
make sounds and they do not  
grow or move.

#### A-8 Score Point 0

The response demonstrates insufficient understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing none of the tasks presented. The student provides a list on living things, but includes a nonliving thing (*water*) in the list. If the student chooses to give additional responses, they all must be correct in order for the student to receive credit. The description of the role of a nonliving thing is not correct for credit. The student explains why the rock would be considered nonliving and does not give a role. The response contains an error that detracts from the correct answer and receives no credit.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The turtle.

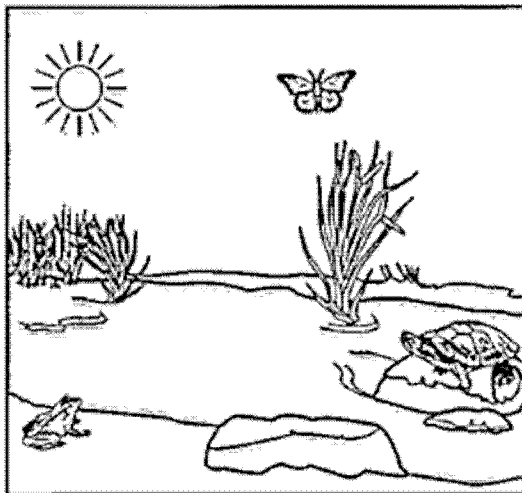
Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The plants so they can eat something

#### A-9 Score point 0

The response demonstrates insufficient understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing none of the tasks presented. The student identifies “the turtle” without indicating if it is a living or nonliving thing. The description of a role of a nonliving thing in the ecosystem is incorrect. The student identifies a plant as nonliving. Since the plant is a living thing, the response cannot get credit. This response demonstrates no understanding and receives no credit.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The frog and the butterfly

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The butterfly

**A-10 Score point 0**

The response demonstrates insufficient understanding of how to categorize the parts of an ecosystem as living or nonliving and describe their roles in the system by completing none of the tasks presented. The student identified two living things and repeated one of the responses in part b. This response shows no understanding of the prompt and receives no credit.

# PSSA, Grade 4 Science

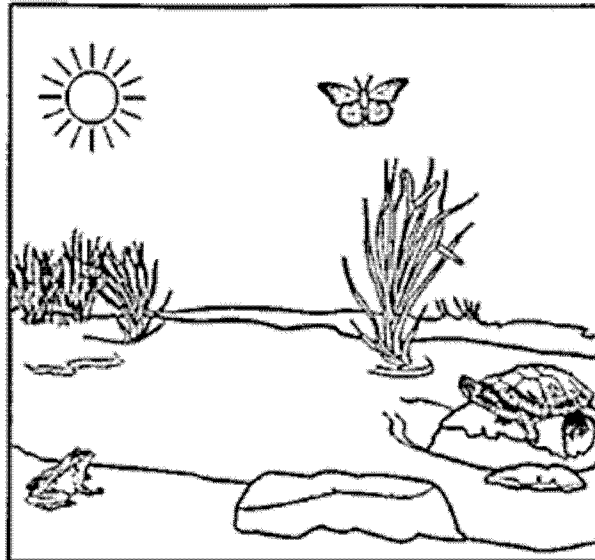
## *Community Pond*

### Handscoring Training Set 1

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Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

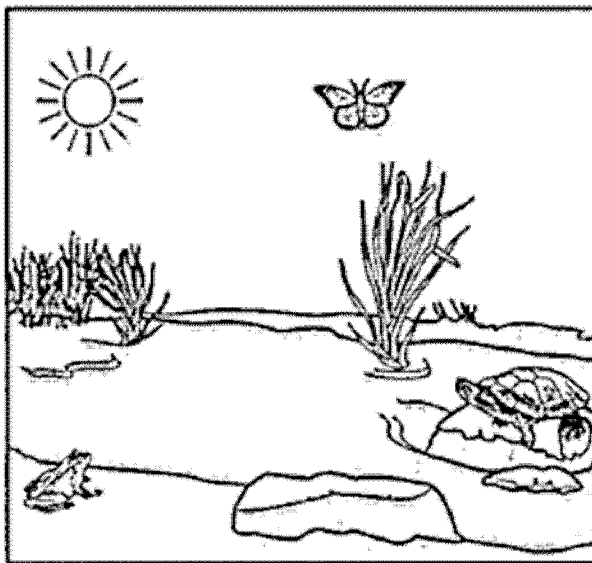
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One nonliving thing is water. One living thing is a plant.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

One thing the water does is gives a home for fish, occasionally a turtle and a frog too.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

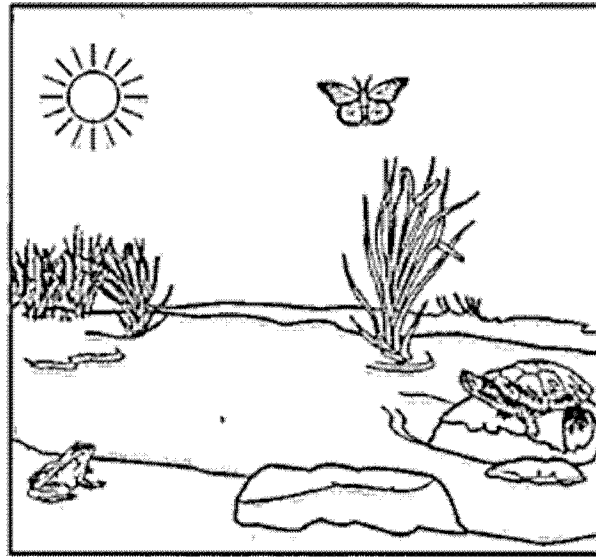
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The one living thing is the turtle  
and the one nonliving thing is  
the rock.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The one role of a nonliving thing  
in the pond ecosystem is the  
water too.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

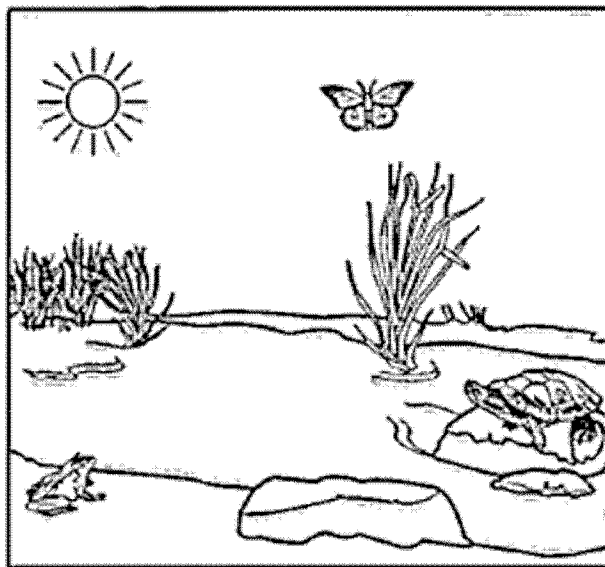
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

A frog is a living thing and the lake is a nonliving thing.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The lake has a huge role. It's where some types of animals live. It give animal place where animal cool off or a drink.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

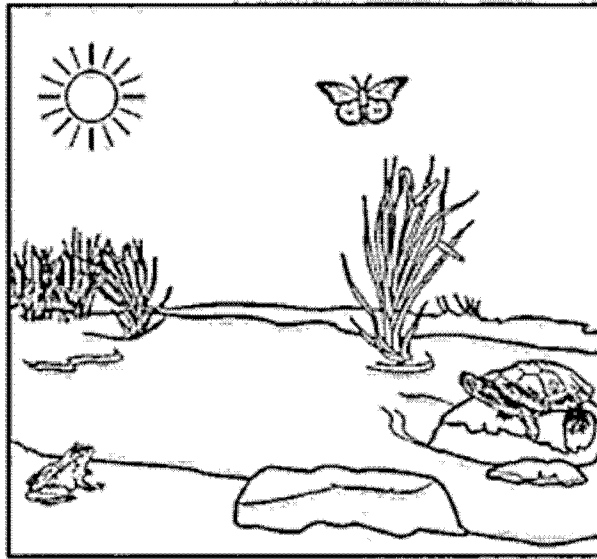
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

Rock and a frog.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

They all live there.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

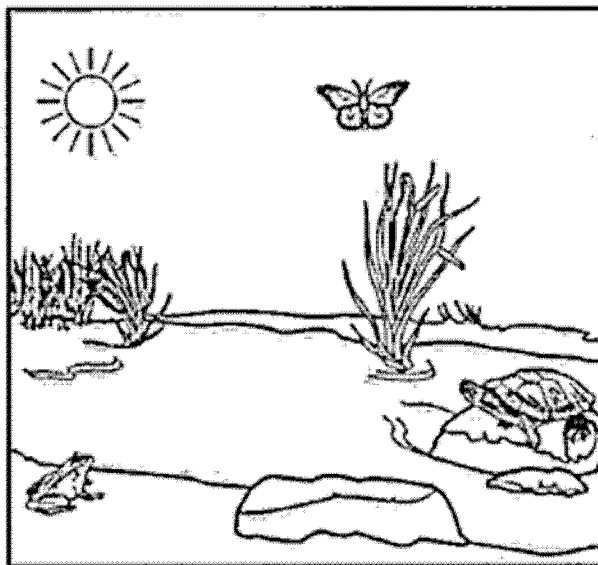
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The one nonliving thing is the rock because rocks can't be a living thing and the living thing is the butterfly.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The nonliving thing is the rock because it can't move, eat, breathe, and live and that's why it is a nonliving thing.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

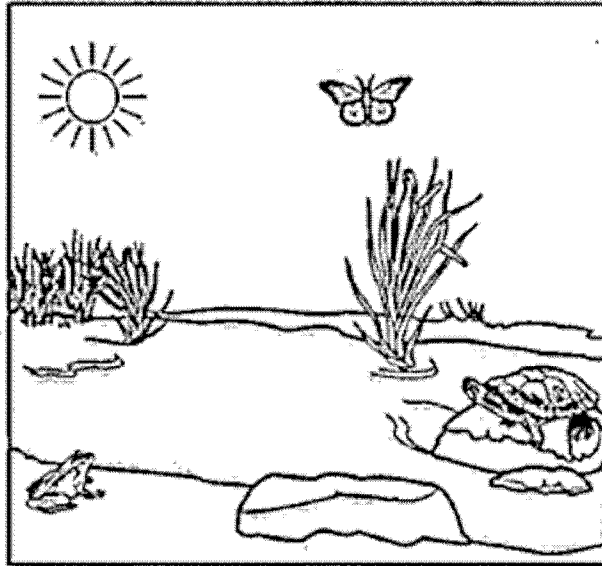
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One nonliving is the water and one living thing is frog.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

One role of the water is to provide a home for animals.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

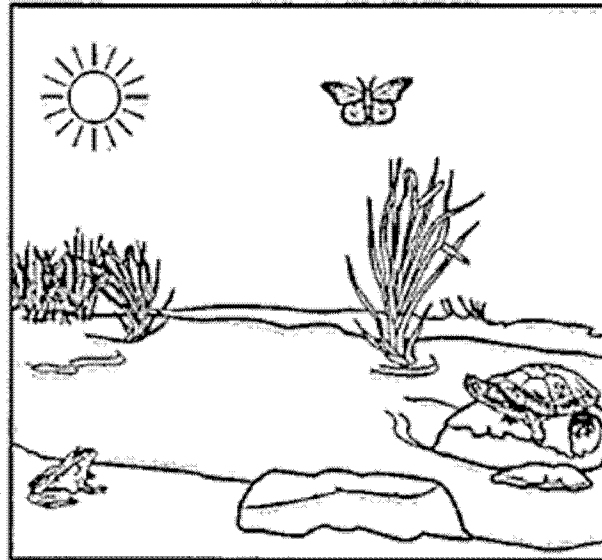
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The one living thing is the frog and the nonliving thing is the trees.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The trees help other animals in land with it.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

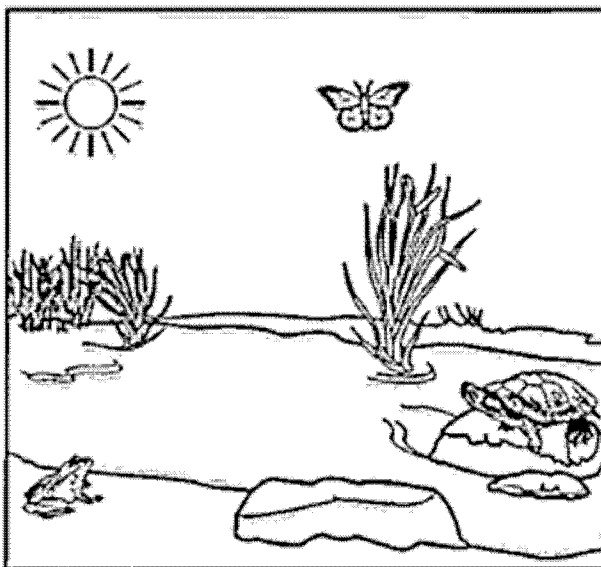
The living things are the frog, butterfly and others. the nonliving thing is the water and plants.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

the role of the sun is to keep things warm.



Use the diagram below to answer question .



A community park has a pond.

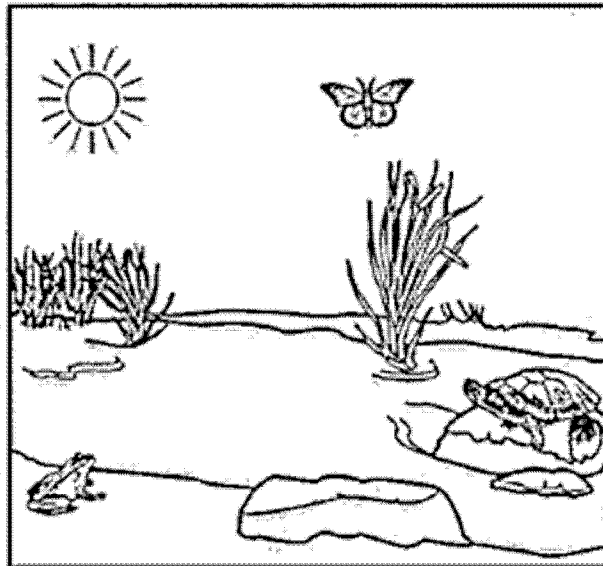
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The plant is one nonliving thing

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The turtle eats it to stay alive.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The frog, and the water

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The sun provides energy for the seaweed and plants. The water provides shelter for the turtle and frog. Also the water provides drinking water.

Subject: **Science**

Item: **Community Pond**

Grade 4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number	Score	Notes
<b>T1-1</b>		
<b>T1-2</b>		
<b>T1-3</b>		
<b>T1-4</b>		
<b>T1-5</b>		
<b>T1-6</b>		
<b>T1-7</b>		
<b>T1-8</b>		
<b>T1-9</b>		
<b>T1-10</b>		



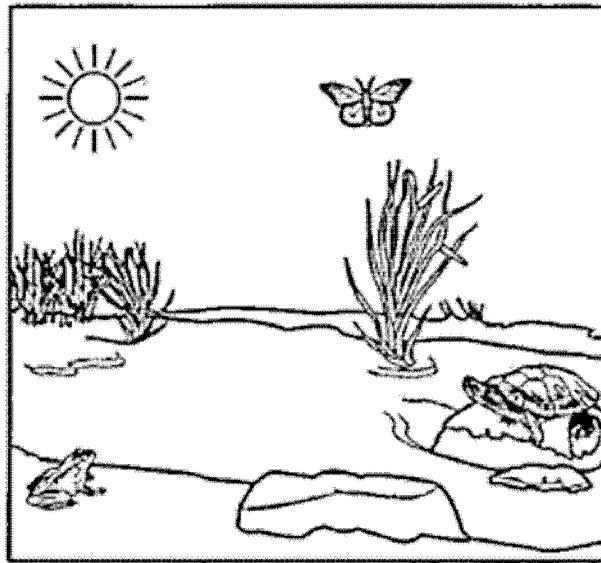
# PSSA, Grade 4 Science

## *Community Pond*

### Handscoring Training Set 2

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Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

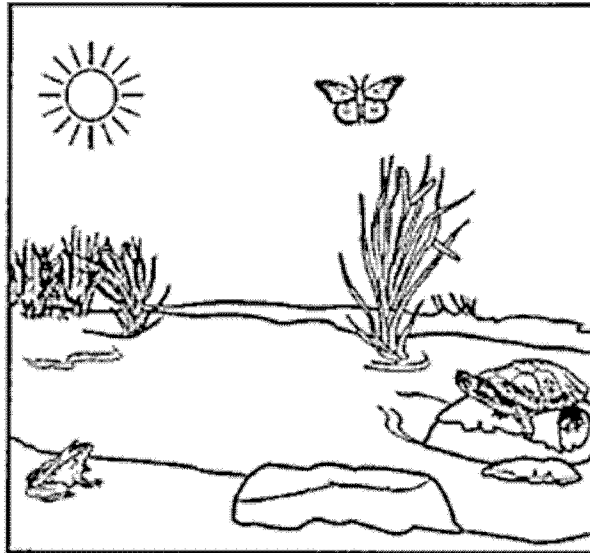
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The turtle is a living thing. A rock is a nonliving thing.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

For animal to stand on and have shade from the sun.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

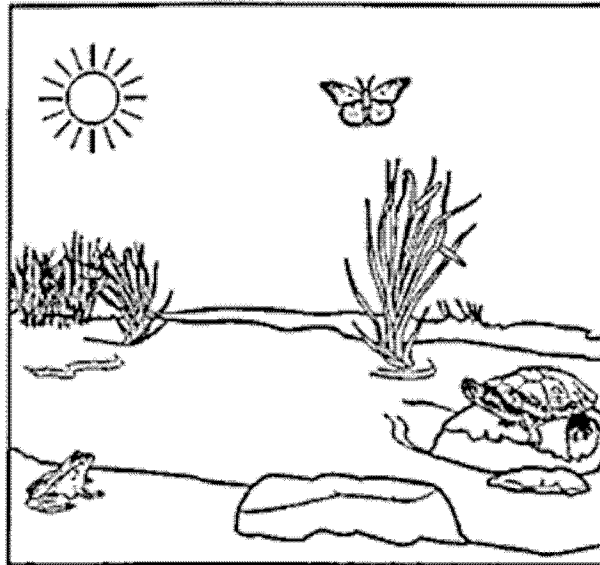
One living thing in the pond is the turtle. One nonliving thing is the water. The water "does" not breathe or smell.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The water is not living but the things inside the water are such as weeds, turtles, fish, and even a frog and also much more.



Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

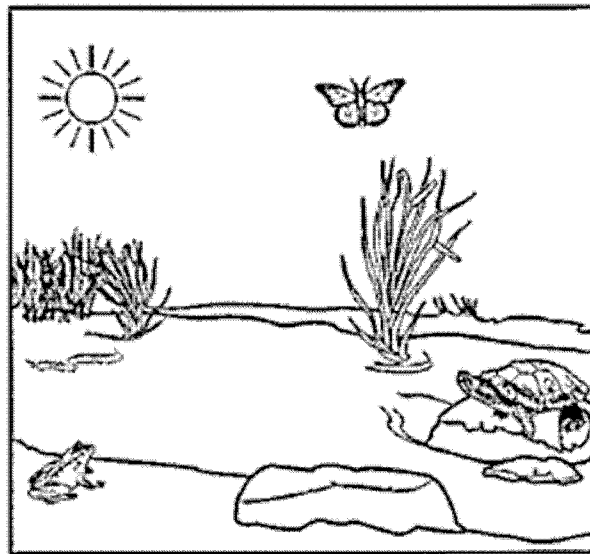
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One living thing is the cute frog and one nonliving thing is the rock that the turtles are on.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The water provides a habitat for the animals.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

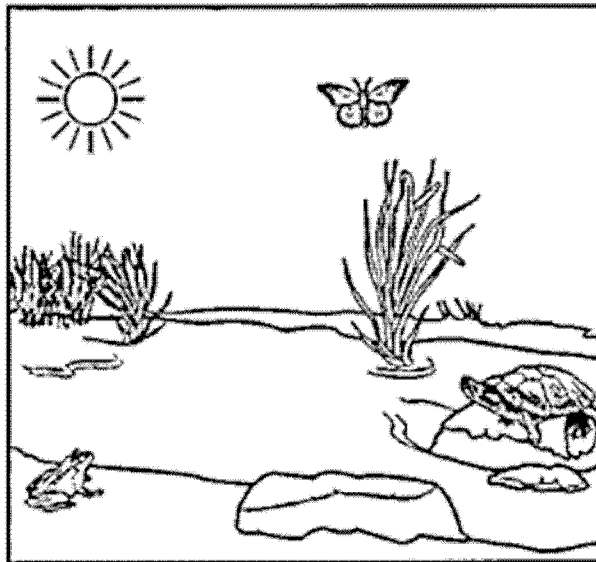
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

There is a turtle that is living and rock is nonliving.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

To be a nonliving thing you have to not eat, sleep, drink, and do not move unless by a human.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

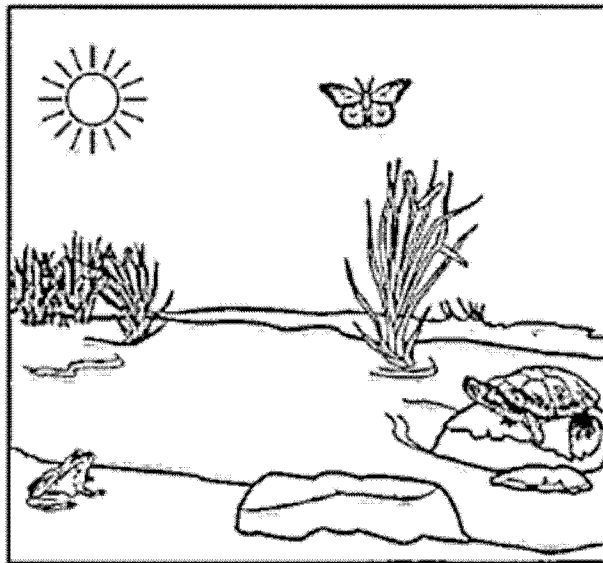
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One nonliving creature  
is the rock and  
a living thing is the  
frog.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

One role is it makes  
a good shelter for  
the animals.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

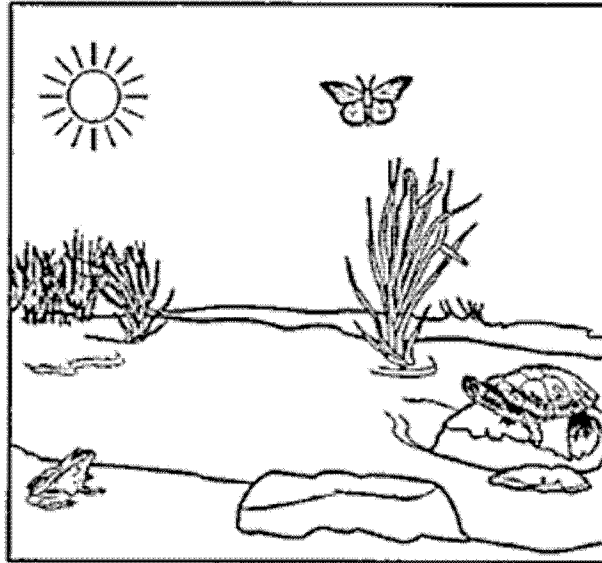
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One non living thing is a rock

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

A rock can let something like a turtle cool off on the rock.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

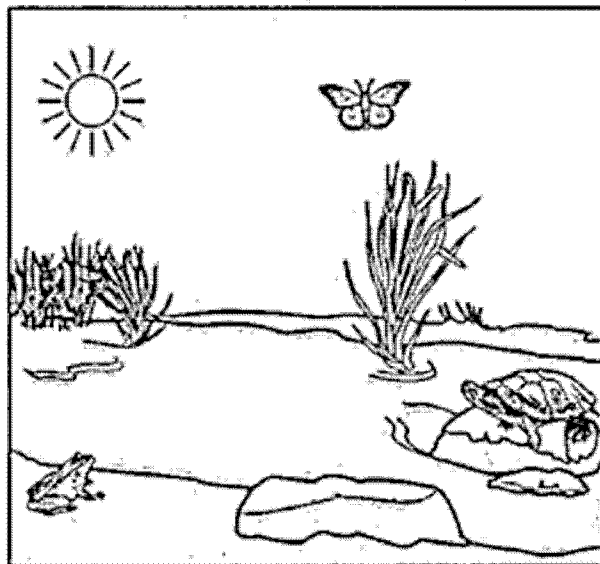
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One living thing in the pond is the frog. One nonliving thing is the weed plant.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The weed plant makes a habitat for the frog.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

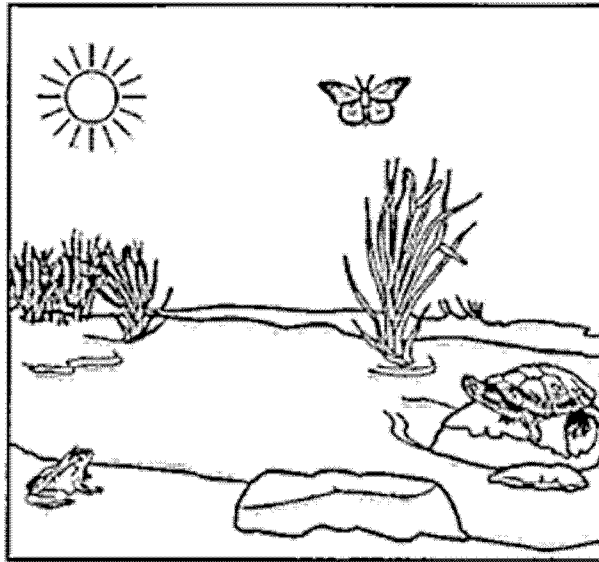
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

air and living thing water a living thing turtle.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

It gives the frog a place to live. the turtle has something to drink.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

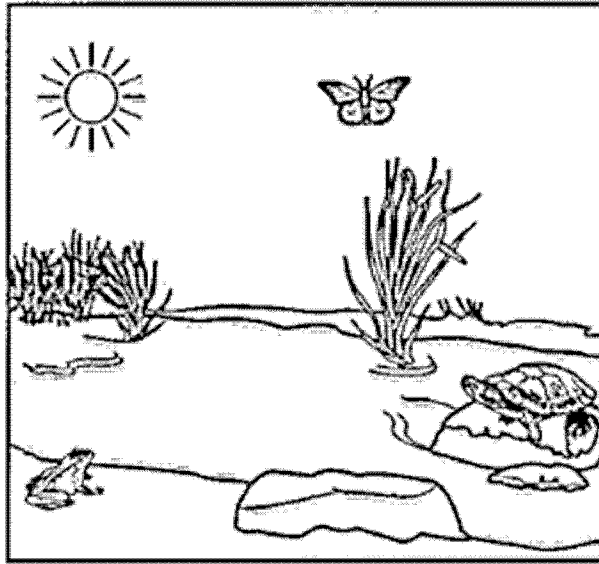
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The rock is the right of the frog  
it is still and non living

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The rock is still and does not eat  
and stuff

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

a Frog and a pond

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

the pond is nice a calm.



Subject: **Science**

Item: **Community Pond**

Grade 4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number	Score	Notes
T2-1		
T2-2		
T2-3		
T2-4		
T2-5		
T2-6		
T2-7		
T2-8		
T2-9		
T2-10		



# PSSA, Grade 4 Science

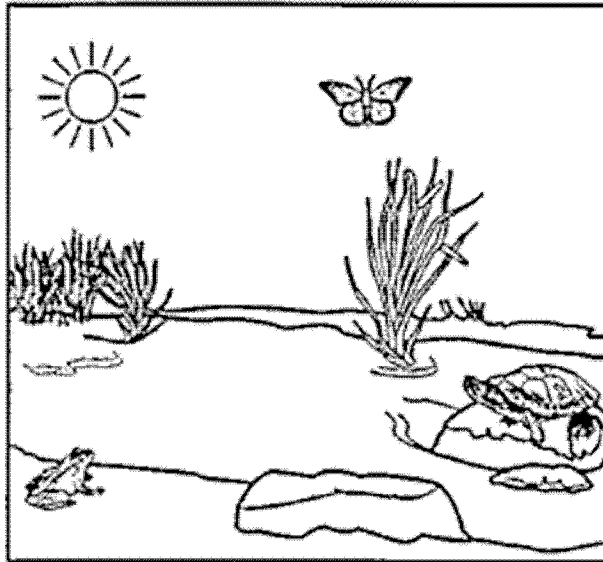
## *Community Pond*

### Handscoring Practice Set\*

\*Responses in this set do not have true scores. Apply scores based on scoring criteria.

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Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

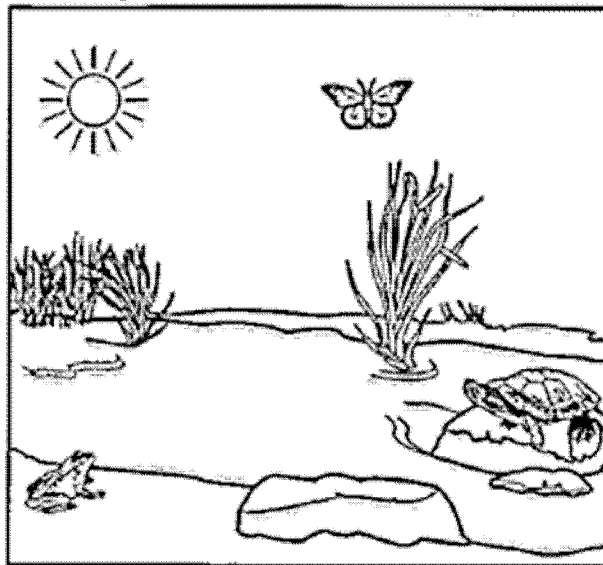
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

rock and the frog

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

Rock water grass gravel

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

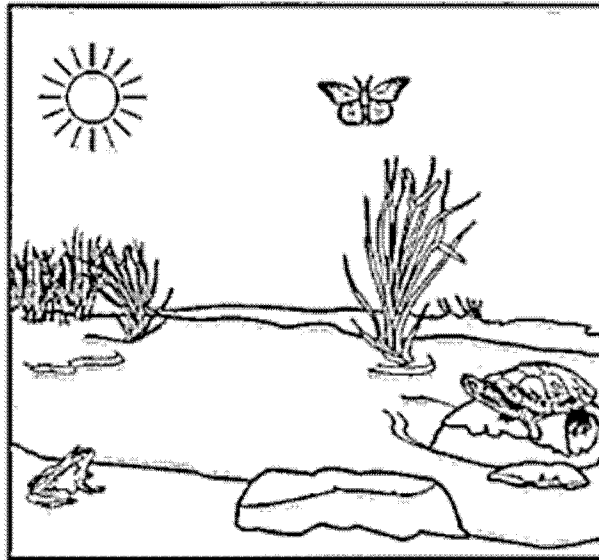
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The nonliving part is water.  
The living part is the turtle.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The role for water is it provided oxygen for fish, a drink of water for any animal, a home, food, and shelter.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

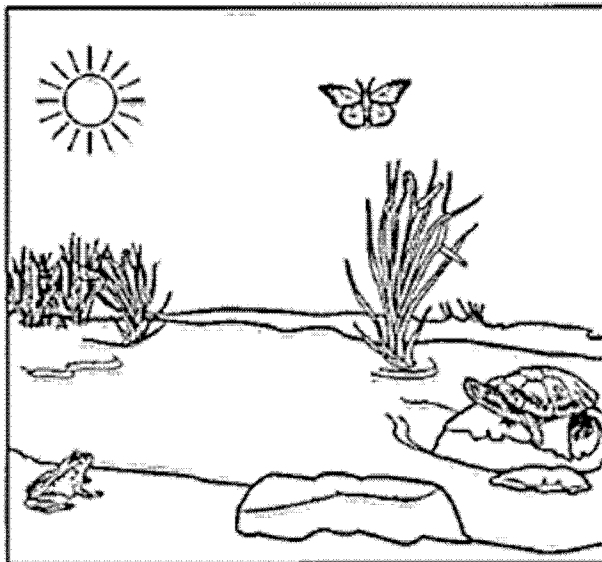
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

the turtle and the rocks  
are living and non living thing

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

the plants supply the water  
and fish with oxygen.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

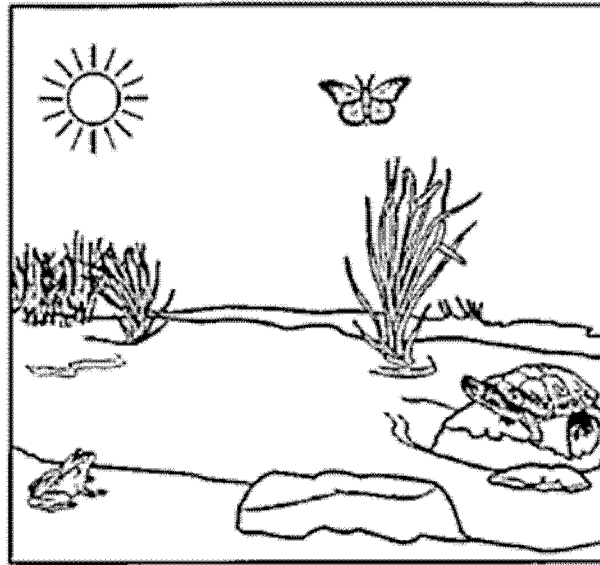
The living thing is a turtle the nonliving thing is a rock.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The rock lets the animals or other things sit or stand on it.



Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

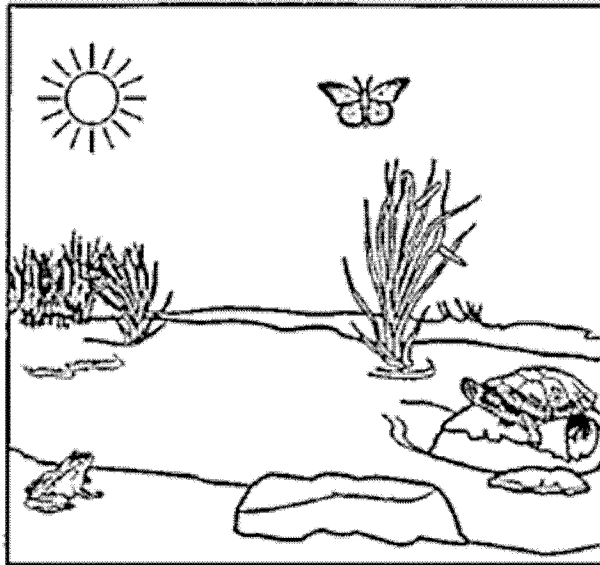
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

A frog is a living thing.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

A rock is a nonliving thing.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

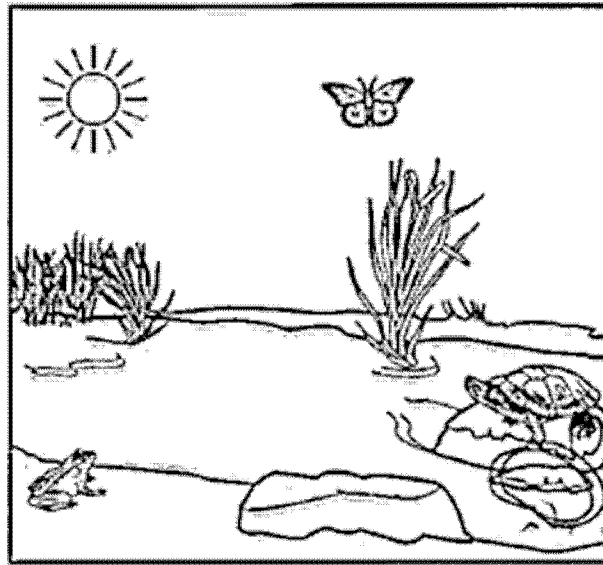
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The turtle and the water are  
one living and nonliving thing.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The water provides shelter and  
a place to swim for some animals.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

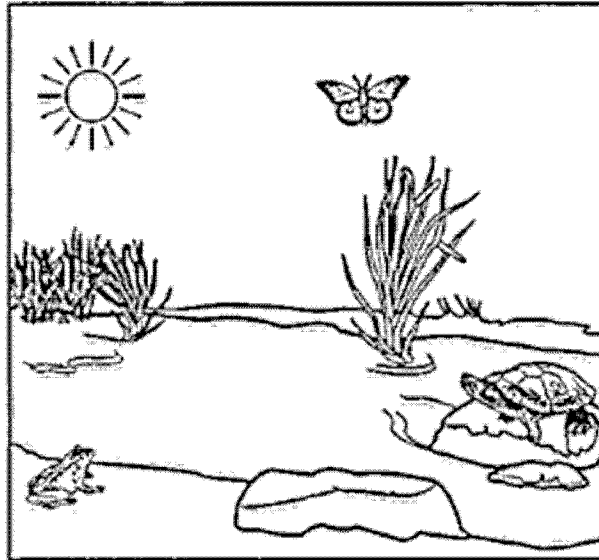
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

One living thing is a butterfly and  
one nonliving thing is a rock.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

One role of the lily pad is it is  
a platform for the frog in water.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

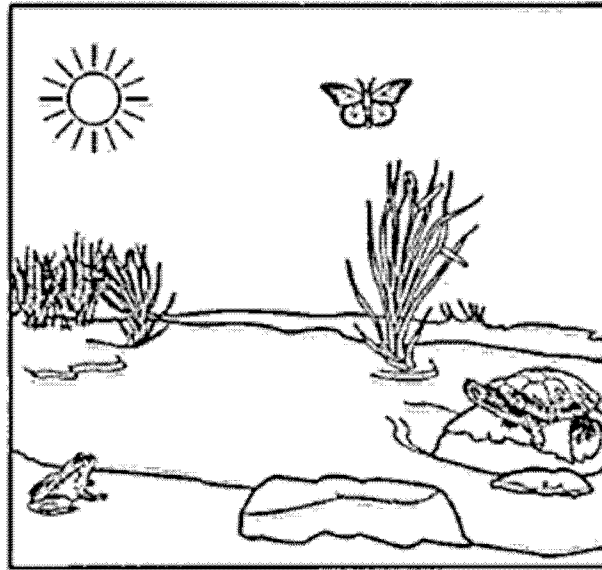
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The butterfly and the  
turtle are both at the  
pond

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

There are plants rocks  
a sun and water

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

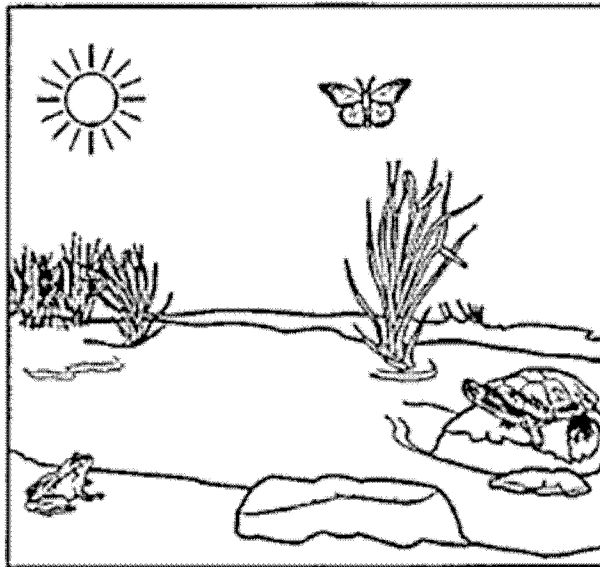
Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The turtle and the sun

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The water doesn't need oxygen or food.

Use the diagram below to answer question



A community park has a pond.

Part A: Identify one living and one nonliving thing at the pond.

The turtle in the pond is living,  
and the rock it is laying on  
is nonliving.

Part B: Describe one role of a nonliving thing in the pond ecosystem.

The role of this nonliving rock  
is for the animals to lay on or  
get dried off from the pond.  
It also put there for the animals  
to stand on so they don't get  
wet while drinking.

## Practice Set\*

Subject: **Science**Item: **Community Pond**

Grade 4

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number	Score	Consensus	Annotation
P-1			
P-2			
P-3			
P-4			
P-5			
P-6			
P-7			
P-8			
P-9			
P-10			

**\*Responses in this set do not have true scores. Apply scores based on scoring criteria.**





PSSA and Keystone Exams  
Fall 2015  
Item Writing and Handscoring Training Workshops

# **PSSA, Grade 4 Science**

*Community Pond*

Handscoring  
Training Sets 1 and 2  
True Scores/Annotations

**BLANK PAGE**

Paper	Score	Comments
T1-1	2	Part A: nonliving – water; living – plant Part B: water gives home for fish
T1-2	1	Part A: living – turtle; nonliving – rock Part B: No credit – no description given, water identified as nonliving
T1-3	2	Part A: living – frog; nonliving – lake (counts as water) Part B: lake is where some types of animals live <b>or</b> where they cool off or drink
T1-4	0	Part A: No credit – living/nonliving not identified; does not match order of prompt Part B: No credit – no description of role
T1-5	1	Part A: nonliving – rock; living - butterfly Part B: No credit – describes why the rock is nonliving and not its role
T1-6	2	Part A: nonliving – water; living – frog Part B: water provides home for animals
T1-7	0	Part A: No credit – trees are identified as nonliving Part B: No credit – error carried through in part B, tree is not nonliving
T1-8	1	Part A: No credit – plants are listed as nonliving (negates correct answer; see A8) Part B: sun keeps things warm
T1-9	0	Part A: No credit – plant is living Part B: No credit – description is incorrect, ‘it’ is taken as plant (from part A) which is not nonliving
T1-10	2	Part A: living – frog; nonliving – water (not identified, but listed in same order as prompt) Part B: sun provides energy for seaweed and plants <b>or</b> provides shelter for turtle and frog <b>or</b> water provides drinking water – both identified things are nonliving

Paper	Score	Comments
T2-1	2	Part A: living – turtle; nonliving – rock Part B: for an animal to stand on or have shade from sun (referring to rock which is identified in part A)
T2-2	1	Part A: living – turtle; nonliving – water Part B: No credit – does not describe the role of the nonliving thing (water) – not clear what the role of the water – saying there are living things inside the water is not the same as saying it is home for plants and animals
T2-3	2	Part A: living – cute frog; nonliving – rock Part B: water provides a habitat for animals is acceptable role
T2-4	1	Part A: living – turtle; nonliving – rock Part B: No credit – does not describe the role; attempts to describe what makes thing nonliving
T2-5	2	Part A: nonliving – rock; living – frog Part B: it makes good shelter for the animals ('it' taken as rock which was identified in pt A)
T2-6	1	Part A: No credit – no living thing identified Part B: rock can let something like turtle cool off on the rock (implies turtle can sit on rock)
T2-7	0	Part A: No credit – weed plant is not nonliving Part B: No credit – weed plant is not nonliving
T2-8	2	Part A: nonliving – water; living – turtle Part B: it (water, from A) gives the frog a place to live or gives the turtle something to drink
T2-9	0	Part A: No credit – only the rock is identified as nonliving Part B: No credit – does not describe the role of the rock
T2-10	1	Part A: living – frog; nonliving – pond (water) Part B: No credit – no role of the pond given