

What makes A Habitat?

A habitat is a place where an organism makes its home. Habitats are composed of water, food, shelter, and space. Availability of these things determines what can survive in the habitat. Use the activities below to observe the water, food, shelter, and space at Willow Pond.

water

Water is essential to all living things. The amount of water in a habitat determines what kinds of plants and animals can live there. Aside from the pond, write down another source of water for this habitat.

food

Food is also important to a healthy habitat and determines how much wildlife it can support. Find an animal and draw it in the first box to start a food chain. Next, draw what they eat in the second box and so on. If your animal eats plants, think about where plants get their energy from (hint: it's up in the sky).

shelter

Shelters are places that organisms need for protection from weather or predators. A healthy habitat will have a variety of shelter types to fit the needs of the animals that live there. Look and see if you can spot these shelters below.

- Rock
- Tree
- Nest
- Tree Hollow
- Log
- Shrub
- Hive
- Ant Hill
- Grass
- Brush Pile
- Web
- Burrow

space

The amount of space an organism needs depends on the species. Observe the animals and plants you see at the pond. Are they larger or smaller than a loaf of bread? Does this habitat support more small creatures than big creatures?

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Who's at Willow Pond



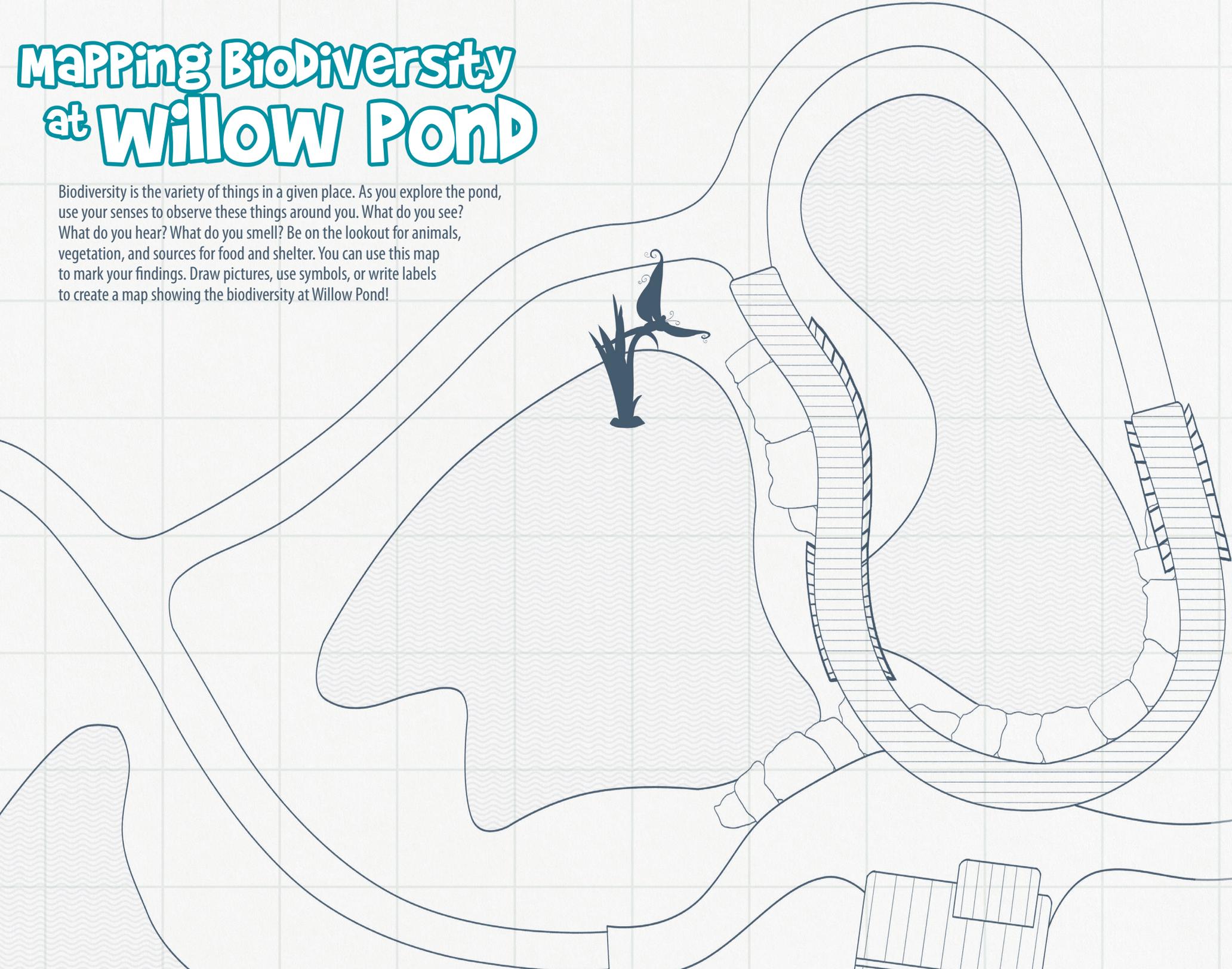
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There's a lot to discover at Willow Pond at the North Carolina Arboretum! From a variety of plants and insects, to frequent reptile, bird, and amphibian visitors. Willow Pond is also special spot to look for salamanders and newts. Use this brochure to observe the biodiversity here and map what you find!

Mapping Biodiversity at Willow Pond

Biodiversity is the variety of things in a given place. As you explore the pond, use your senses to observe these things around you. What do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? Be on the lookout for animals, vegetation, and sources for food and shelter. You can use this map to mark your findings. Draw pictures, use symbols, or write labels to create a map showing the biodiversity at Willow Pond!



Critter Count

Add up what you find for each critter below. You can use this list for ideas of what to look for and use the corresponding letters as labels on the map.

- salamanders & newts N
- frogs & toads F
- snakes S
- turtles T
- aquatic insects I
- herons H
- raccoons R
- pollinators P
- other birds B
- other mammals M