

# BUCKET BUDDIES - D.C. WETLAND HABITATS

Anne Beers Elementary School, Washington D.C. Ms. O'Bryant's Class and Mrs. Pettu-Williams' Class Grade 3

## QUESTION:

Are the organisms in Washington, D.C. wetlands, the same as the organisms in wetlands in other parts of the U.S.?

## HYPOTHESIS:

No. The organisms are not the same because different kinds of animals live in different places depending on the weather, climate, and amount of pollution.

## MATERIALS/APPARATUS:

2 gallons of pond water  
(Sample from Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens in Washington, D.C.)  
Shallow Aluminum Pan  
Small styrofoam bowls  
plastic spoons  
droppers  
hand lenses  
low-powered microscope  
Macro-invertebrates guide sheet  
Science journal

## PROCEDURE:

In teams of four, the students observed samples of water to identify the organisms. Teams kept a tally of each organism identified. Students made a sketch and wrote a brief description of the organism that they were not able to identify and later referred to other sources for identification. Students visited the Bucket Buddies Website to view the results of the schools that participated in the 2009 Investigation. Students wrote conclusions based on the data shared by various schools across the United States.

## CONCLUSION:

Our hypothesis was partially correct. Although some organisms that were found in other wetlands across the United States were different, several were the same. The greatest number of macro-invertebrates found were caddisfly larva and bristle worms. Since caddisfly larvae are sensitive to pollution, we conclude that the water in our ponds are of good quality.

MACRO-INVERTEBRATES	NUMBER FOUND BY MS. O'BRYANT'S CLASS	NUMBER FOUND BY MRS. PETTU-WILLIAMS CLASS	TOTAL NUMBER FOUND
MIDGEFLY LARVE	1	5	6
BRISTLE WORM	3	5	8
SNAIL	2	4	6
WATER PENNY	2	4	6
CADDISFLY LARVE	4	4	8
DAMSELFLY NYMPH	1	5	6
WATER FLEA	1	5	6
SCUD		5	5
DRAGONFLY NYMPH		5	5
MAYFLY NYMPH		5	5
MOSQUITO LARVAE		5	5

