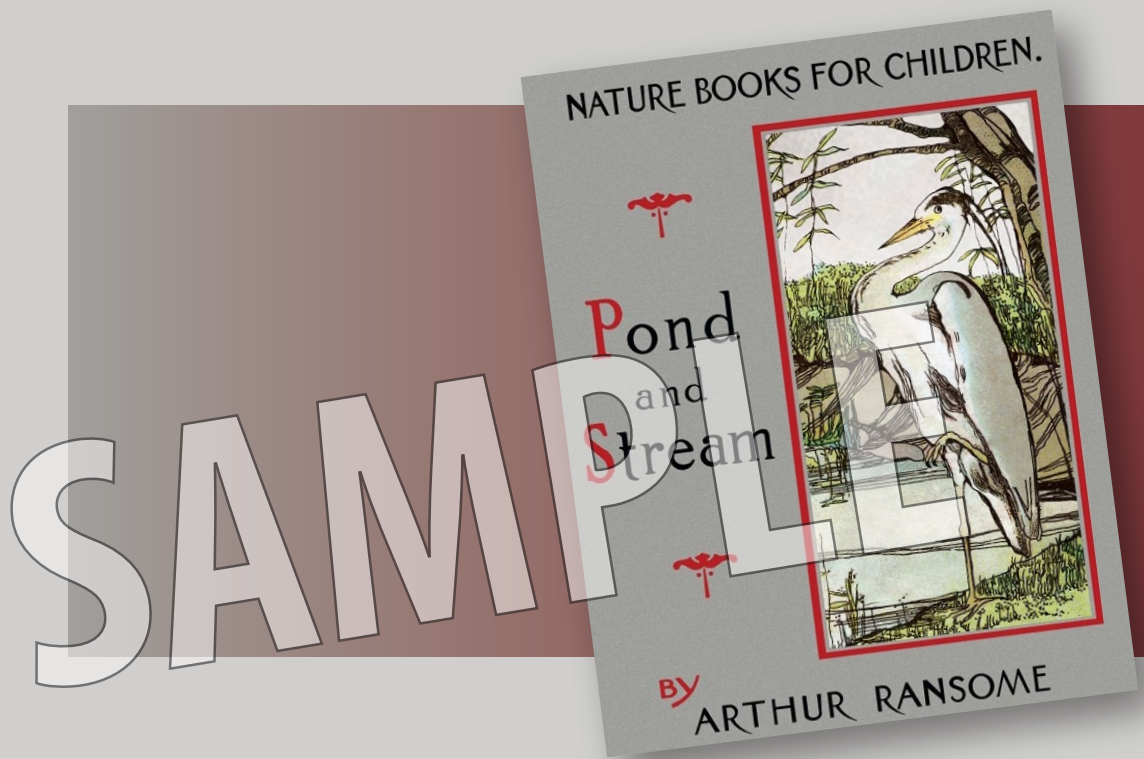


Simply Charlotte Mason presents

The *Pond and Stream* Companion



A living science handbook

by Karen Smith

*Enjoy teaching early elementary science
with interesting living stories, nature study,
and hands-on experiences!*

Your students will love the gentle nature stories and the playful family relationships that are woven throughout Arthur Ransome's wonderful living science book, *Pond and Stream*. And now you can easily expand on his story with the simple science ideas suggested in this companion handbook.

Learn more from Pond and Stream with these

- Easy nature study ideas
- Simple projects with handy materials
- Fun nature notebook suggestions
- Beautiful poetry that reflects the plants or animals studied
- Additional non-twaddle book suggestions to find at your library
- Gentle lesson plans to use at your own pace

Help your child explore the fascinating world of nature that lives around ponds, streams, and lakes!

Simply
Charlotte Mason
.com

The Pond and Stream Companion

by Karen Smith

The Pond and Stream Companion
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Introduction

During the elementary years, your science lessons should accomplish three things:

1. Nurture within the child a sense of wonder at God's creation.
2. Cultivate a habit of careful observation.
3. Lay the groundwork of personal experience that will support future science studies.

The lessons in this book strive to accomplish those three goals. They are intended for children in first, second, and third grades and are based on Arthur Ransome's living science book, *Pond and Stream*. I have simply collected some additional ideas to encourage you and your child to explore more about the plants and animals that live in and around ponds, streams, and lakes.

Feel free to progress through the lessons at your own pace. A suggested schedule is provided on page 9, but do what works best for your family. If your child devours anything scientific, you might complete several lessons each week. If you want to enjoy a more leisurely pace, you might do one lesson per week. Or you might do two or three lessons during one week, then complete only one the next week. Whatever you decide, you have the freedom.

And along those same lines, remember that you don't have to do every idea that is suggested in the lessons. They are just suggestions; you may pick and choose from them as you are interested and able.

At the time of this publishing, all of the book suggestions listed in the lessons were in print (unless otherwise noted). If you cannot find one of the titles feel free to substitute a different book on the same topic. Likewise, all of the Internet links were working at the time of publishing. If an Internet link is no longer working feel free to search for another one.

I hope you enjoy these additional ideas that will encourage your child to continue exploring nature!

A Word about Nature Notebooks

Throughout the lessons in this book you will see a reference to a nature notebook. A nature notebook is simply a blank sketchbook to begin with. It will become the child's personal record of what he observed and made a personal relation with during these studies.

Here are some key points to remember about a nature notebook.

1. A nature notebook is the child's own possession. It is not to be graded or criticized. It is not the parent's project; it belongs to the child.
2. A nature notebook can contain written observations, drawings, poetry, Scripture, specimens—whatever interests the child and encourages him to look closely and observe nature carefully.
3. If the child isn't able to or comfortable with writing his observations in his nature notebook, the parent can do the writing as the child dictates what he wants to say.

Choosing a Field Guide

A good field guide is an essential tool for doing nature study. It will help you identify plants, animals, insects, etc. in nature and give you some basic information about the natural item being studied. Choose a field guide with good pictures, written descriptions of the organism, range maps, common names and Latin names, and a description of the habitat and basic habits of the organism.

There are many choices available for field guides from regional books to digital apps. Choose the ones you will use and that will be the most useful to you.

Resources Needed

For the entire study

- *Pond and Stream* by Arthur Ransome—This delightful book is available free online at gutenberg.org.
- *Favorite Poems Old and New* selected by Helen Ferris—This wonderful collection of poems will be a handy resource for all your homeschooling years. I have had mine for more than fifteen years and still use it. A great investment!
- Nature notebook, one for each person
- Field guide for amphibians
- Field guide for flowers
- Field guide for birds
- (optional) *The Handbook of Nature Study* by Anna Botsford Comstock—This resource, that is available free online, is more of a reference book for the teacher to study to learn about the plants and animals ahead of time. Some lesson ideas are also given. Corresponding pages are listed for your convenience if you would like to use this resource as a supplement.

For specific lessons (Check your library.)

- *About Habitats: Wetlands* by Cathryn Sill
- *Butternut Hollow Pond* by Brian Heinz
- (optional for 3rd grade) *Pond* by Gordon Morrison
- (optional) *Squish! A Wetland Walk* by Nancy Luenn (out of print)
- *Ducks Don't Get Wet* by Augusta Goldin
- *Frogs* by Nic Bishop
- *About Amphibians: A Guide for Children* by Cathryn Sill
- *Wolfsnail: A Backyard Predator* by Sarah C. Campbell
- (optional for 3rd grade) *Life of the Snail* by Theres Buholzer
- *The Flower Alphabet Book* by Jerry Pallotta
- (optional) *A Little Guide to Wild Flowers* by Charlotte Voake
- *About Fish: A Guide for Children* by Cathryn Sill
- *Where the River Begins* by Thomas Locker
- *Think of an Eel* by Karen Wallace OR *Ellie & Ollie Eel: A Tale of a Fantastic Voyage* by Suzanne Tate
- *Seagull by the Shore: The Story of a Herring Gull* by Vanessa Giancamilli Birch (out of print but should be available at your library) OR *Gulls...Gulls...Gulls...* by Gail Gibbons
- *Henry the Impatient Heron* by Donna Love
- *Time of Wonder* by Robert McCloskey
- *Whistling Wings* by Laura Goering
- (optional) *Swan Flyway: The Tundra Swan* by Dana Limpert (out of print)
- *Saving Squeak: The Otter Tale* by Jennifer Keats Curtis
- (optional) *Otter On His Own: The Story of a Sea Otter* by Doe Boyle (out of print)

- *Ookpik: The Travels of a Snowy Owl* by Bruce Hiscock
- (optional) *Molly the Owl: The True Story of a Common Barn Owl That Ends Up Being Not So Common After All* by Eric Blehm (out of print)
- (optional) *Screech Owl at Midnight Hollow* by C. Drew Lamm (out of print)
- (optional) *The Brook Book* by Jim Arnosky (out of print)

For nature studies

- Jar with lid
- Garden hose or watering can
- Large, shallow container
- Aquarium, or other suitable container
- Fine mesh net
- Clear or white plastic container

Suggested Schedule for a Year of Study

Week 1: Lessons 1 and 2

Week 2: Lessons 3 and 4

Week 3: Optional Lesson or Catch Up and Lesson 5

Week 4: Lessons 6 and 7

Week 5: Lesson 8

Week 6: Lessons 9 and 10

Week 7: Lessons 11 and 12

Week 8: Lessons 13 and 14

Week 9: Lesson 15

Week 10: Lessons 16 and 17

Week 11: Lesson 18

Week 12: Lessons 19 and 20

Week 13: Lessons 21 and 22

Week 14: Lesson 23 and Catch Up

Week 15: Lesson 24

Week 16: Lessons 25 and 26

Week 17: Lesson 27 and Catch Up

Week 18: Lesson 28

Week 19: Lessons 29 and 30

Week 20: Lessons 31 and 32

Week 21: Lessons 33 and 34

Week 22: Lesson 35

Week 23: Lessons 36 and 37

Week 24: Lessons 38 and 39

Week 25: Lessons 40 and 41

Week 26: Lessons 42 and 43

Week 27: Lessons 44 and 45

Week 28: Lessons 46 and 47

Week 29: Lessons 48 and 49

Week 30: Lessons 50 and 51

Week 31: Lessons 52 and 53

Week 32: Optional Lesson or Catch Up and Lesson 54

Week 33: Optional Lesson or Catch Up and Lesson 55

Week 34: Optional Lesson or Catch Up and Lesson 56

Week 35: Lessons 57 and 58

Week 36: Lessons 59 and 60

Lesson 1

Checklist

- *Pond and Stream*

Read together chapter I of *Pond and Stream*. Ask your child to tell you about a time he visited a lake, stream, or pond. If your child has not experienced a trip to a body of water or does not remember, ask him to tell you about a time he played in the water.

Lesson 2

Checklist

- *About Habitats: Wetlands*
- Nature notebook

Read together *About Habitats: Wetlands* by Cathryn Sill. Take time to look at the pictures in the book, allowing your child to tell you what he observes. If your child wants to know more, read the extra information for each page at the back of the book. Record any interesting information in your child's nature notebook.

Lesson 3

Checklist

- *Pond and Stream*

Ask your child what he remembers from last time's reading about the Imp and the Elf and how they love everything that is wet. Read about ponds in *Pond and Stream*, chapter II, pages 12–16, from the beginning of the chapter through "like mice into a crevice in the wall." Ask for an oral narration.

Notes

Reminder: Get *About Habitats: Wetlands* by Cathryn Sill for lesson 2 and *Butternut Hollow Pond* by Brian Heinz for lesson 4. If you want to do the additional optional book in lesson 4 for students in grade 3, get *Pond* by Gordon Morrison. There is also an optional lesson available if you can find the out-of-print book, *Squish! A Wetland Walk* by Nancy Luenn.

Reminder: Get *Ducks Don't Get Wet* by Augusta Goldin for lesson 6.

Notes

Tip: While the main text of *Pond* by Gordon Morrison is fine, there are a few minor evolutionary teachings in the extra text: "Turtle ancestors roamed the earth even before the dinosaurs," page 6; "During the days of the dinosaurs, giant dragonfly ancestors flew on wings 2 feet across," page 15; "How the pond may have formed: 12,000 years ago the earth was in a cold period," page 16.

Lesson 4

Checklist

- *Butternut Hollow Pond*
- (optional for grade 3) *Pond*
- Nature notebook

Read together *Butternut Hollow Pond* by Brian Heinz. Record any interesting information about ponds in your child's nature notebook.

(Optional) Assign to your older student, or read together, *Pond* by Gordon Morrison. Have your child record any interesting information about ponds in his nature notebook.

Optional Lesson

(If you can find this out-of-print book)

Checklist

- *Squish! A Wetland Walk* (out of print)
- Nature notebook

Read together *Squish! A Wetland Walk* by Nancy Luenn. Add any interesting information to your child's nature notebook.

Lesson 5

Checklist

- *Pond and Stream*

Ask your child what he remembers from last time's reading about ponds. Read together pages 16–19 in chapter II of *Pond and Stream*, from "But the birds who matter" through "mackintoshes against the wet." Ask for an oral narration.