

Make an Aquascope

Age: Elementary School

Objective

- To provide students with an opportunity to view the underwater world of a pond environment.

Background Lesson

When you look at a pond, lake or stream, it is hard to imagine what may be taking place beneath the glassy surface. Have you ever asked yourself what is going on down there? With this aquascope, you can take a sneak peek into the aquatic world that lies just beneath the surface.

The Activity

Materials

- 1 two-liter milk or juice carton
- Scissors
- Plastic wrap
- Large rubber band
- Heavy tape

How it's Made

1. With your two liter carton, take a pair of scissors and cut the top and bottom off. The rest of the carton should look like a square tube.
2. Take a piece of plastic wrap big enough to cover one end of your carton. Stretch it tight and use the rubber band to hold the plastic wrap in place. With the heavy tape, wrap a strip or two around the carton to hold the plastic wrap in place even further
3. There you have it, your very own aquascope. The final step is to head down to the pond or stream and have a peak. Hold the plastic end of you aquascope just beneath the surface of the water, and look through the other end. Is there anything moving down there?

Be careful and bring a friend or parent with you when around deep water. If the aquascope doesn't get you close enough to the action, think about getting a pond net so you can catch interesting things and take a closer look.

One Fish at a Time