

## **POLYWOGS 'N FROGS**

**TIME: 2.5 HRS**

**Please ask your students to wear rubber boots and dress for the weather.**

**DESCRIPTION:** Students become acquainted with the wetland dwellers of the Ojibway area through an interactive presentation, live exhibits and pond study. Sporting boots and buckets, students experience first hand the unique adaptations found within the water.

### **WETLAND DWELLERS PRESENTATION**

The naturalist introduces the students to the many organisms that inhabit and visit Ojibway's pond. The concept of a pond ecosystem is discussed and the naturalist helps the students understand the relationships found within the ecosystem. The life cycles of frogs, turtles, dragonflies and mosquitoes are discussed.

**BREAK** – A short break is scheduled for the students to use the washrooms and have a small snack and drink.

### **GUIDED HIKE TO THE POND**

Hiking to the pond, students pass by another community at Ojibway, the tallgrass prairie. They also hike close to Ojibway's creek where, depending on the weather, students may witness frogs, turtles and dragonflies sunning themselves and looking for food.

### **HANDS-ON POND STUDY**

Individually and in groups, students explore the pond habitat collecting a variety of organisms for observation and later release. Students may capture frogs, fish, tadpoles, dragonfly and damselfly larvae, crayfish, water beetles, pond snails and more! Smaller organisms such as mosquito larvae are better viewed through a hand lens. Students also discover different plants that live in Ojibway's ponds. By walking along the edge of the pond, students may discover tracks of visiting wildlife such as herons, duck and raccoons.

### **POND STUDY FOLLOW UP**

When each student has had the opportunity to collect something, the naturalist leads a discussion on the boardwalk about what they have found. The naturalist enhances the students' learning with interesting facts about the organisms the students have discovered.

### **WOODLAND WALK**

On the way back to the Nature Centre, the naturalist helps the students discover other wildlife. Students are encouraged to look and listen carefully for a variety of natural features.

### **VIEWING NATURE CENTRE EXHIBITS**

A naturalist roams amongst the students, answering their questions as they view the Nature Centre's live animal displays and natural history exhibits. Students are encouraged to view and touch a variety of natural objects in the discovery centre.

*Please note that the Nature Centre has a Nature Shop with bird seed, feeders, books and children's items for sale.*