

Pond Peekers:

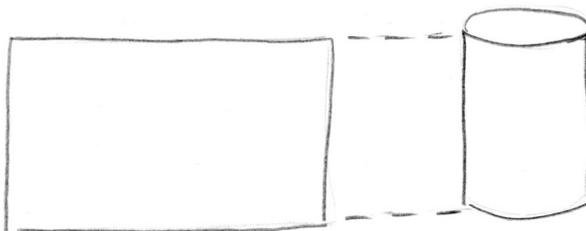
This very simple project is a good example of one that helps bring the children deeper into an experience of nature. It is best if you have access to a pond nearby, but if you don't it is a good project for a special outing - even big cities usually have a pond somewhere! Although this is a simple project, there are several steps which must be done by or with an adult. We recommend doing it yourself first to figure out how to orchestrate the needs of your class.

Materials:

- one coffee can (or the like)
- sturdy plastic wrap large
- sturdy rubber bands
- clear contact paper
- heavy white paper, large enough to go around the outside of the can (not the top or bottom) covering it completely
- heavy, wide (2 - 3 inch)
- clear tape
- pressed leaves, ferns, or flowers (you can draw on the paper if you don't have pressed plants)

Directions:

- 1) Cut both the top and bottom out of the can with a can opener (this is best done by an adult).
- 2) Cut a sheet of white paper exactly the height of the can and long enough to go all the way around the can with a one inch overlap.

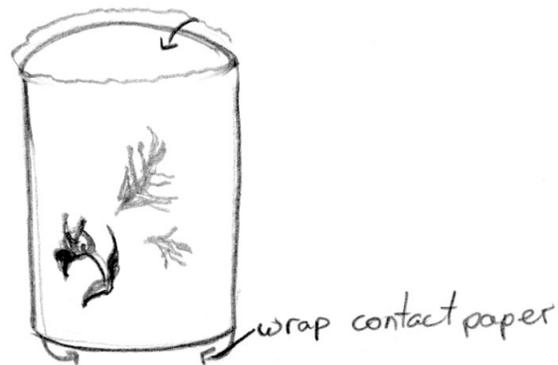


- 3) Either color on it or glue dried flowers on the white paper and let it dry.
- 4) Then cut a piece of clear contact paper, 2 inches taller than the height of the can and long enough to go around the can with a one inch overlap (same length as the white paper).

- 5) Centering the contact paper so that it extends one inch over both the top and the bottom of the decorated paper, cover the decorated paper with the clear contact paper. Seal it on.



- 6) Now attach this to the can. Initially, wrap it around and tuck the clear contact paper over each lip. Push this down firmly. Then go back over this from the inside sealing it in with the clear tape (an adult will have to do this). Try to get a good seal as it will be around the water and - if there is a leak in the end product - it will be in the water!



- 7) Take a square sheet of plastic wrap 2 -3 inches larger than the diameter of the can. Stretch the plastic wrap over the bottom of the can. Use the rubber band to keep it in place. This will require stretching the plastic wrap a couple of times and making sure the rubber band is a tight fit. We do not recommend taping this in place as it will, in all likelihood, get torn overtime and need replacing.

- 8) Take this down to a pond and put the plastic covered end a small way into the water. Look down through the top - you have a clear window into pond life.

