

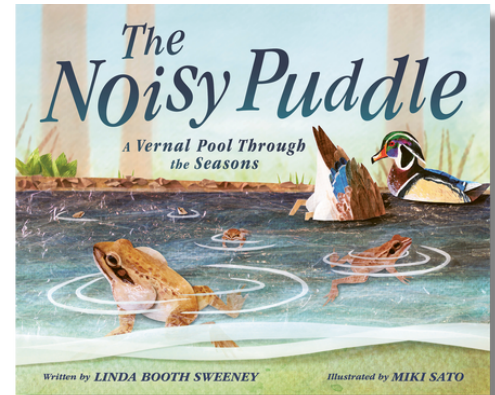
Activity Guide

Life Sciences—Build a Yarn Food Web Visual Arts—Mixed-Media Collage Scene

The Noisy Puddle: A Vernal Pool Through the Seasons
by Linda Booth Sweeney, illustrated by Miki Sato

A lyrical dip into the noisy, magical world of a vernal pool

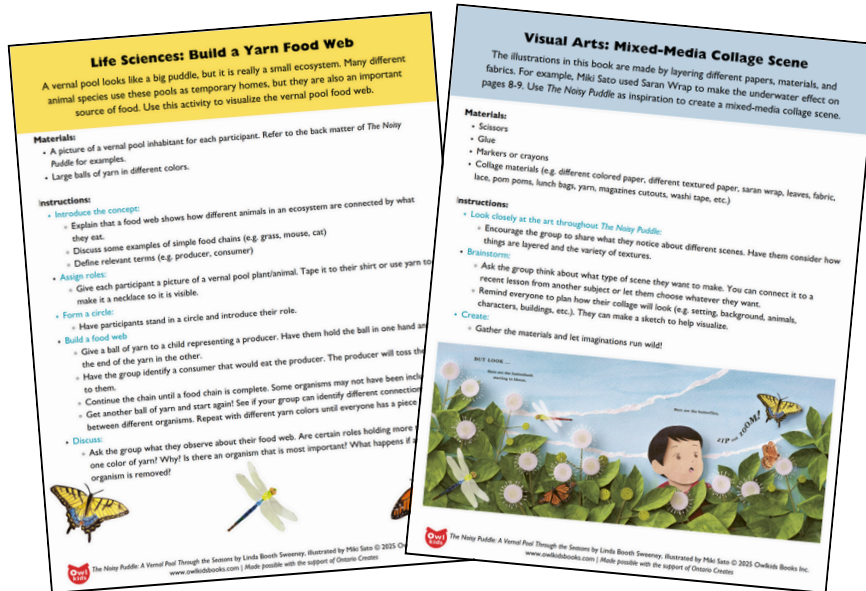
Two curious siblings observe the hidden world of a “now-you-see-me, now-you-don’t” wetland habitat.



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Ages 4 to 8; Grade: 1-3

Enjoy these two activities and find more activities from the author here:



CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

Text Form: Hybrid/Informational

Language Arts: Rhyming; Vocabulary

Development; Text Features - Author's Note, Bibliography

Science: Natural Cycles; Growth and Changes in Plants and Animals; Habitats and Biodiversity; Scientific Observation; Seasonal Changes

Visual Arts: Mixed-Media Collage

READING LEVELS

Reading Recovery: I2

Fountas & Pinnell: G

Lexile® Measure: AD400L

Common Core: RL.1, W.1, SL.1, L.1



The Noisy Puddle: A Vernal Pool Through the Seasons by Linda Booth Sweeney, illustrated by Miki Sato © 2025 Owlkids Books Inc.

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Life Sciences: Build a Yarn Food Web

A vernal pool looks like a big puddle, but it is really a small ecosystem. Many different animal species use these pools as temporary homes, but they are also an important source of food. Use this activity to visualize the vernal pool food web.

Materials:

- A picture of a vernal pool inhabitant for each participant. Refer to the back matter of *The Noisy Puddle* for examples.
- Large balls of yarn in different colors.

Instructions:

1. Introduce the concept:

- Explain that a food web shows how different animals in an ecosystem are connected by what they eat.
- Discuss some examples of simple food chains (e.g. grass ➡ mouse ➡ cat)
- Define relevant terms (e.g. producer, consumer)

2. Assign roles:

- Give each participant a picture of a vernal pool plant/animal. Tape it to their shirt or use yarn to make it a necklace so it is visible.

3. Form a circle:

- Have participants stand in a circle and introduce their role.

4. Build a food web

- Give a ball of yarn to a child representing a producer. Have them hold the ball in one hand and the end of the yarn in the other.
- Have the group identify a consumer that would eat the producer. The producer will toss the ball to them.
- Continue the chain until a food chain is complete. Some organisms may not have been included.
- Get another ball of yarn and start again! See if your group can identify different connections between different organisms. Repeat with different yarn colors until everyone has a piece of yarn.

5. Discuss:

- Ask the group what they observe about their food web. Are certain roles holding more than one color of yarn? Why? Is there an organism that is most important? What happens if an organism is removed?



Visual Arts: Mixed-Media Collage Scene

The illustrations in this book are made by layering different papers, materials, and fabrics. For example, Miki Sato used Saran Wrap to make the underwater effect on pages 8-9. Use *The Noisy Puddle* as inspiration to create a mixed-media collage scene.

Materials:

- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers or crayons
- Collage materials (e.g. different colored paper, different textured paper, saran wrap, leaves, fabric, lace, pom poms, lunch bags, yarn, magazines cutouts, washi tape, etc.)

Instructions:

1. Look closely at the art throughout *The Noisy Puddle*:

- Encourage the group to share what they notice about different scenes. Have them consider how things are layered and the variety of textures.

2. Brainstorm:

- Ask the group think about what type of scene they want to make. You can connect it to a recent lesson from another subject or let them choose whatever they want.
- Remind everyone to plan how their collage will look (e.g. setting, background, animals, characters, buildings, etc.). They can make a sketch to help visualize.

3. Create:

- Gather the materials and let imaginations run wild!

