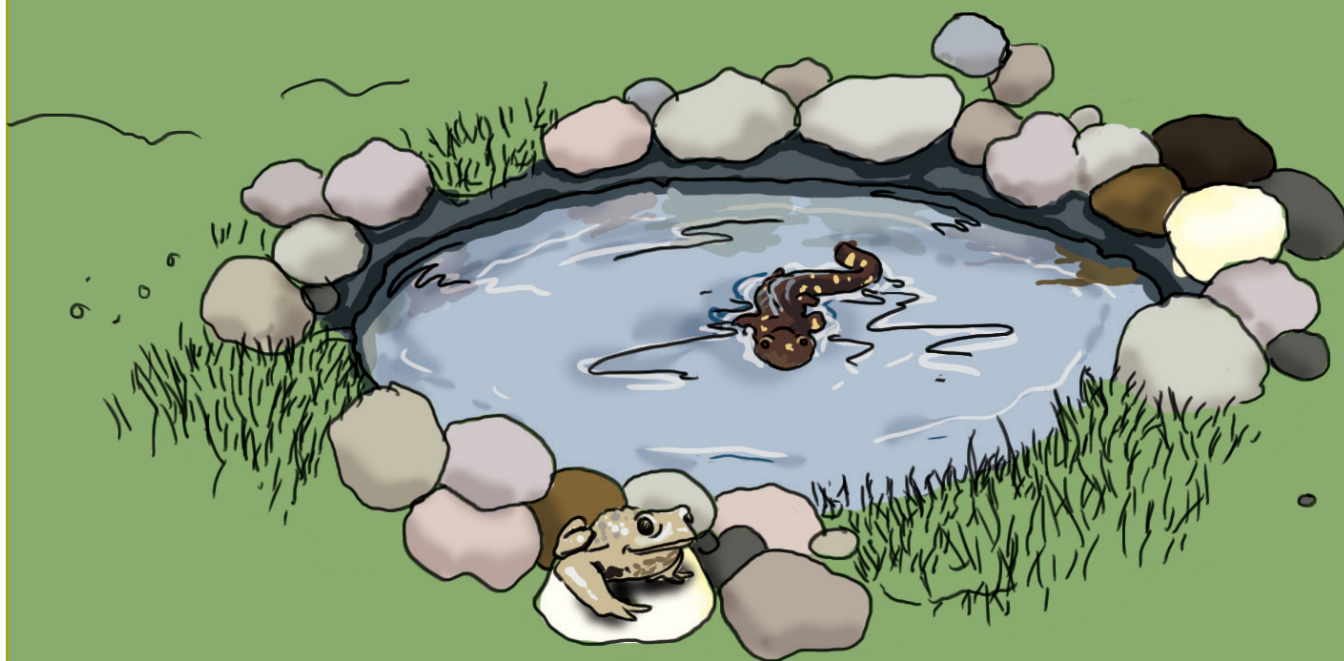
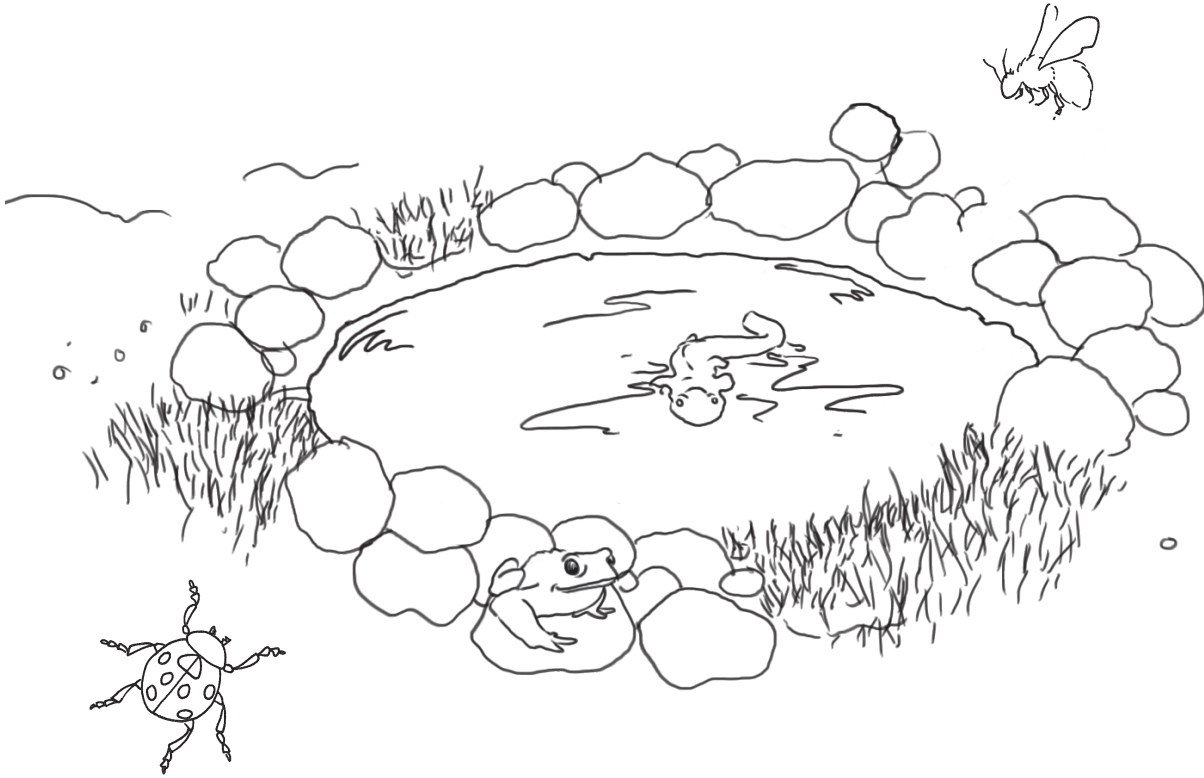


Make room for nature

Build your own
WATERHOLE





The waterhole – where the animals meet

A waterhole can have many roles. It is a habitat for animals and insects, and a place where land-dwelling animals, insects and birds come to drink and cool off. In Denmark, many small waterholes are disappearing or being destroyed as towns and cities grow in size and agriculture becomes more efficient at cultivating the soil. This is a problem for many animals and insects.

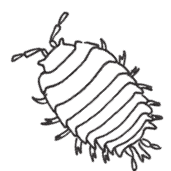
Denmark has a whole group of animals that are endangered due to the decline in suitable habitats – amphibians! This group comprises animals such as frogs, toads and newts. None of the amphibians live permanently in water, but they need waterholes to lay their eggs in. All amphibians in Denmark feed on insects. Slugs are one of the many foods large toads eat, including Spanish slugs.

Many insects are linked to water in one way or another. Some live their entire lives in water, while others start off in the water and later crawl onto land. Dragonflies and damselflies are some of the insects that start life in the water and later leave to become flying insects. Adult flying water insects, such as mayflies and caddisflies, also serve as food for various animals and birds. The breeding times of many birds are closely timed so that the young hatch and need to be fed during the period when these insects are leaving the water as flying adult insects.

Invite fauna into your garden

You can help animals at home in your own garden by setting up a small waterhole. A waterhole does not have to be big in order to serve as a habitat for animals and insects. A puddle that does not dry out can actually contain a lot of life. It is easy to create your own waterhole. If you have an area in your garden that never really dries out, you can put your waterhole there. You just need to dig a hole! If you do not have an area with a high groundwater level, you will have to seal the bottom of your waterhole. This can be done using a pool liner or moulded pool. Note that when the purpose of the waterhole is to help the fauna in your garden, it is important that you do not release creatures into it yourself. Goldfish, for example, happily eat insects and tadpoles. The size of the waterhole is entirely up to you.

Have fun!



Building instructions

- 1** Before you start working on your new pond, it is a good idea to think about where, and how big, you want it to be. You should also consider whether you want to use a moulded pool, or a flexible pool liner.

- 2** Now start digging. The hole you dig must match the base you wish to use in the pond. If you want various water depths in the pond, now is the time to shape it. If you have chosen a moulded pool, the hole must match this.

- 3** It can be a good idea to line the hole with non-woven material to protect the pool liner from sharp stones. Place the pool liner in the hole. It is important that it follows the shape of the hole. It can be a good idea to add a little water to the pond at this stage. The water will help keep the liner in position.

4

Once the liner is in place, finish the edge. It is up to you what you prefer. You can finish off the pond by removing turf around the edge of the pond, lying the pool liner where the turf was, and then replacing the turf on top of the liner. Note that the final water level in the pond cannot be higher than the lowest point at the edge of the liner.

You can now fill the pond with water.

