Sussex Wildlife Trust Aq9

Investigating feeding relationships within a pond

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Aim:
To use pond dipping data to determine the feeding relationships within a pond

Method:
Divide class into 6 groups, each group within a pond
Each group identifies and tallies the number of each species caught and enters their data in the grid

Results:
Use keys and reference materials to find the feeding relationships and enter into the grid

Creature	**Number of creatures collected**								
	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Total	Mean	Feeding Group
Damselfly nymph									
Dragonfly nymph									
Mayfly nymph									
Flatworm									
Bloodworm									
Leech									
Greater waterboatman									
Lesser waterboatman									
Water louse									
Great diving beetle larva									
Caddis fly larva									
Mosquito larva									
Newt									
Pond skater									
Ramshorn snail									
Wandering snail									
Water flea									

Key: H = herbivore C = carnivore O = omnivore S = scavenger

Work out the totals and means.
Draw a graph to show the relative numbers of each feeding group.

Conclusion:
Which creatures had the highest total and mean?
What do you notice about the ration of the feeding groups? Can you explain why?
What does this tell you about the food chains within the pond?

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