

## A picnic at the pond



There was once a beautiful pond. Many animals lived there, the birds sang while building their nests, the ducks swam around and quacked while the frogs croaked and sat on their lily pads.

One day a family came to the pond. They drove there in the car. They thought it was a lovely place so they sat on the grass and had a picnic. They threw their drinks cans into the water and made lots of noise. The animals hid away. Some of the tadpoles in the pond got hurt.

When it was time for the family to go home they left their rubbish behind. There were plastic loops, some broken glass, crisp packets and a few plastic bags. It looked horrible.

When the people had gone, the animals came back. Some of the ducks cut themselves on the broken glass. Other animals tangled up in the plastic loops, stuck in chewing gum or caught in plastic bottles. The frogs stopped croaking and things went still and quiet. The other animals that lived in the pond began to leave.

People who lived near the pond decided to do something and to clear the pond of litter. They cleaned it out, taking all the litter away carefully. They put out litter bins for people to use. They put up signs asking people who visited the pond to think about the animals that live there and to use the litter bins.



Slowly the animals came back to the pond. The ducks paddled about and quacked, the frogs croaked and the dragonflies danced across the water.

People still come and visit the pond but when they do they think about the animals that live there.

