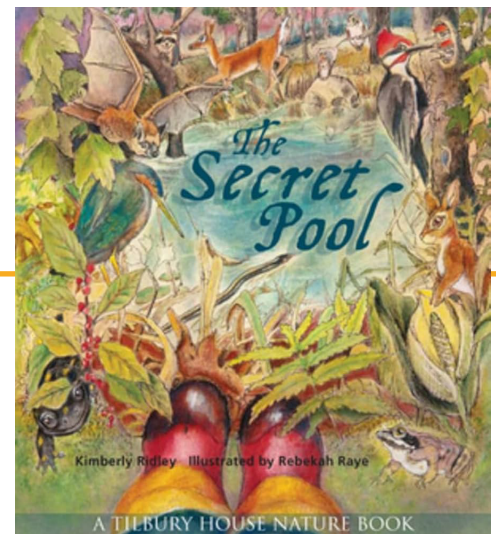


EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

Activities, tools & resources for learning with this book!



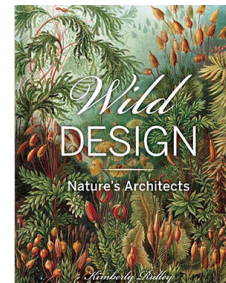
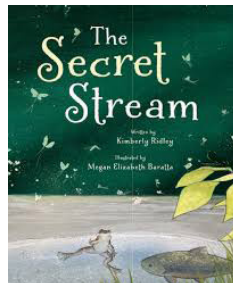
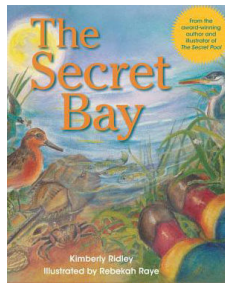
Meet the author



Kim Ridley is a science writer, essayist, editor, and children's book author who has been writing about nature, science, health, and the environment for more than 25 years. Her words evoke and display her passion for the natural world and her deep commitment to following her own curiosity. Through the scientific process, journal articles, and several picture books, she shares her passion for the natural world with young readers and budding scientists.

Visit her [WEBSITE](#).

Other books by Kim:



Meet the illustrator



Rebekah Raye is an artist and illustrator who has an appeal to animal and nature enthusiasts of all ages. Her book with Kim displays her seamless adaptation to informational text. The illustrations present the natural magic and scientific significance of vernal pools, while sharing the light that shines within the creatures. From fairy shrimp to bullfrogs, readers and listeners will come to know the variety and abundance of critters who rely on these secret pools for their survival.

Visit her [WEBSITE](#).

EXPLORE MORE BOOK GUIDE

LET'S BEGIN! BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Use the Visual Thinking Strategy (VTS) questions below to orient readers, and to help guide a group discussion. Begin by taking a quiet moment to look closely at the book jacket, allowing time for observation and contemplation of the images.

- *What is going on in this picture?*
- *What do you see that makes you say that? (provide evidence)*
- *What more can we find?*

Watch this [VIDEO](#) for a quick VTS demo

HAVE QUESTIONS?

Please contact Alison Johnson at Island Readers & Writers, 207-460-6828 or ajohnson@islandreadersandwriters.org.

The information in this book and guide will help participants be able to:

- Identify the characteristics of vernal pools.
- Identify several animals or critters that live in or breed in vernal pools.
- Identify reasons why vernal pools are important to the environment.
- Ask questions and explore evidence about habitat survival.
- Engage in investigation and generalization skills, by making inferences and drawing conclusions.
- Gain practice in using observation and evidence from text to demonstrate learning about vernal pools.
- Understand how the author and illustrator used evidence to support a specific viewpoint.

STANDARDS

Covered throughout this Explore More Book Guide:

SL.1. Prepare for and participate in conversations across a range of topics, types, and forums, building on others' ideas and expressing their own.

SL.2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

SL.3 Present information and supporting evidence appropriate to task, purpose, and audience so listeners can follow the line of reasoning and incorporate multimedia when appropriate.

R.4. Read various texts closely to determine what each text explicitly says and to make logical inferences; cite specific textual evidence to support conclusions drawn from the texts.

R.5 Provide an accurate summary of various texts; determine the central idea(s) or theme(s) and analyze its development throughout each text.

R.6. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

R.8 Analyze the structure of various texts, including how the features and components relate to each other and the whole.

R.9. Assess how perspective or purpose shapes the content and style of various texts.

R.10 Evaluate the argument and specific claims in various texts.

With a focus on Earth, Space and Life Sciences

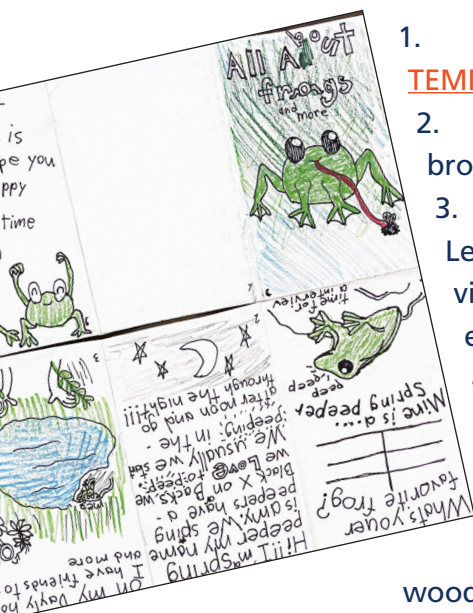
LET'S TALK!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Why do vernal pools exist and what impact do they have on nearby habitats?

1. How are vernal pools different from ponds and other bodies of water?
2. What makes the protection of vernal pools important?
3. What type of animals and critters rely on vernal pools?
4. What are some of the ways a vernal pool changes through the seasons?

LET'S CREATE (AND DO)! Book-Inspired Art



1. Make a field guide **Zine** about Vernal Pools. Use this [TEMPLATE](#) for guidance.
2. Design persuasive vernal pool awareness posters or brochures. The site below has a sample [LESSON](#) on this activity.
3. Participate in [BIG NIGHT MAINE](#) and make it a Service Learning Project. You can learn more about it in this 207 video clip. Make caution signs for amphibian crossings to educate your community.
4. Write vernal pool poetry and host a poetry jam with your class or friends (mentor text: [INSECTLOPEDIA READ ALOUD BY DOUGLAS FLORIAN](#)).
5. Write a story using different vernal pool critters' **points of view**. (ie; from the lens of a fairy shrimp, a wood frog, a spotted salamander, etc.)

See more activities in Appendix A-D

LET'S DIVE DEEPER! Explore More

1. [VERNAL POOL ASSOCIATION](#)
2. [MAINE VERNAL POOLS WEBSITE](#)
3. [WICKED BIG PUDDLES](#) is The Vernal Pool Association blog where you'll find a variety of posts on vernal pool adventures.
4. Check out this [SCIENTIST CHECKLIST](#) for observing vernal pools:
5. [MAINE AUDUBON PDF](#) on vernal pools
6. A short [VIDEO](#) of life in a vernal pool in Maine:
7. *The Secret Pool Extras*:
 - [READER GUIDE](#)
 - [READ ALOUD](#)
 - [VOCABULARY SCAFFOLD](#)

VERNAL POOLS

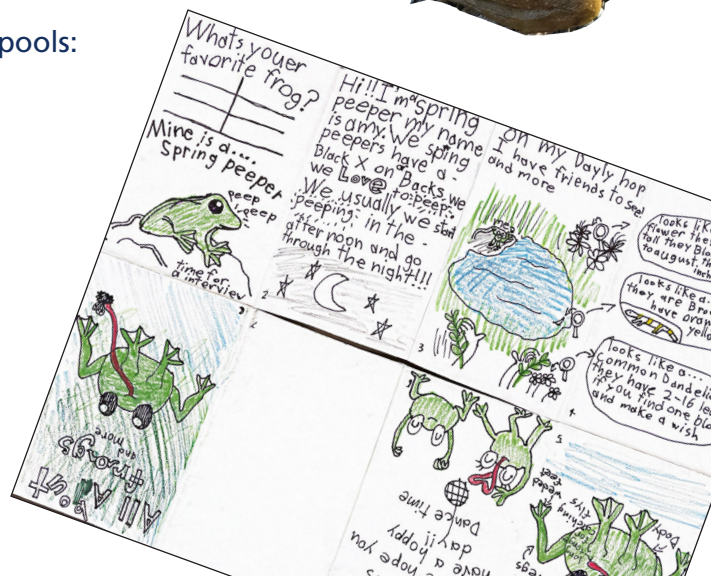
are seasonal pools of water that provide habitat for distinctive plants and animals.

ZINE:

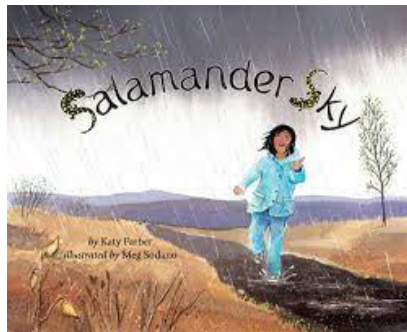
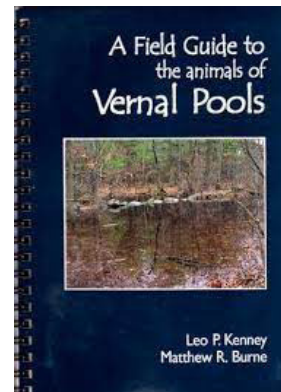
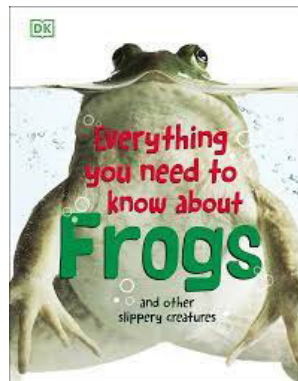
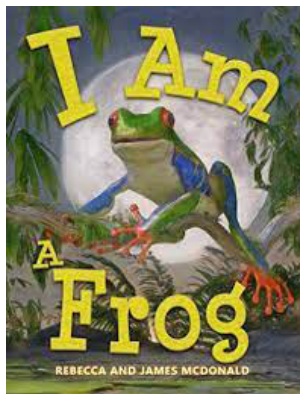
a mini magazine; a booklet that can be created with a single piece of paper.

POINTS OF VIEW:

the perspective from which a story is told



LET'S READ MORE! Text to Text Connections



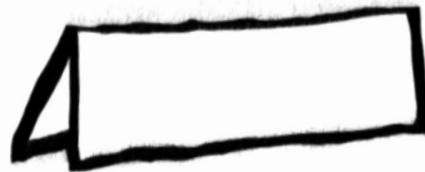
HOW TO FOLD A mini ZINE



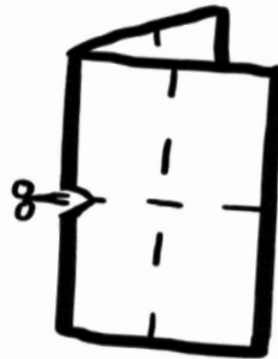
UNFOLD AND CHECK
YOUR LAYOUT



FOLD HOTDOG AGAIN



FOLD HOTDOG STYLE



FOLD HAMBURGER
AND CUT THE MIDDLE
TWO PANELS



POP THE CENTER
PANELS APART LIKE "BAOW!"



FOLD HAMBURGER
STYLE



FOLD HAMBURGER
AGAIN



UNFOLD AGAIN,
YOU SHOULD HAVE A HOLE
IN THE CENTER



FOLD IT UP
AND OMG YOU
HAVE A MINI ZINE!

APPENDIX B

The Secret Pool Word Search

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

The Secret Pool

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

FAIRY) SHRIMP

G L H V L E Z M I D Y I Z V Y X Z W O Y

WATERSHED

X D A D A P T A T I O N P O B J L L A G

SPOTTED

H F X T F B D B H M N S N F M V B C K E

SALAMANDER

G V L B U Z L F D J S O J B V Y M W I U

VERNAL

Q U B X K R S A L A M A N D E R R E X B

PREDATORS

L H U G H N T G D S R O T A D E R P R T

TURTLE

M N M V F Z I L O K Y J Z J R P Q Q O I

CRUSTACEAN

A R I K F E V Z E R P N P M K I B X S G

ADAPTATION

K X V X S H R I M P F K S Z H Y Q P V M

V T S K Q J R A Q V V F N L G I X F Q M

Y R C C S G O R F F M K R X W H D C V B

C X B I G S P O T T E D H D G M R W K S

F E L O O Z J S T N G A O U R U Q A X G

A T S W Y I W N K D S F S T S B C T X W

P E V L Y R P N A R O U G T N D K E V N

J S E K A T I M V Y M O A M M L S R E M

O L R K U K R A W E A C W U I K Y S D R

I A N V Q V Y X F K E V D K C Q Y H H U

W A A S H S L Z B A B I O M X T B E F Z

M K L F N T C V N T M S N A D S I D S G

APPENDIX C

Vocabulary Match

Draw a line from the word on the left to the definition on the right that best matches.

FAIRY SHRIMP	Pertaining to spring
WETLANDS	Living or growing in or near water
SPOTTED SALAMANDER	A small transparent crustacean
VERNAL	A crab, lobster, or shrimp
ZOOPLANKTON	Places that are saturated with water, such as swamps and marshes
AQUATIC	The action or process of changing
INVERTEBRATE	An animal that doesn't have a backbone, such as an insect or worm
CRUSTACEAN	A North American salamander with yellow spots
ADAPTATION	Microscopic animals that live in water

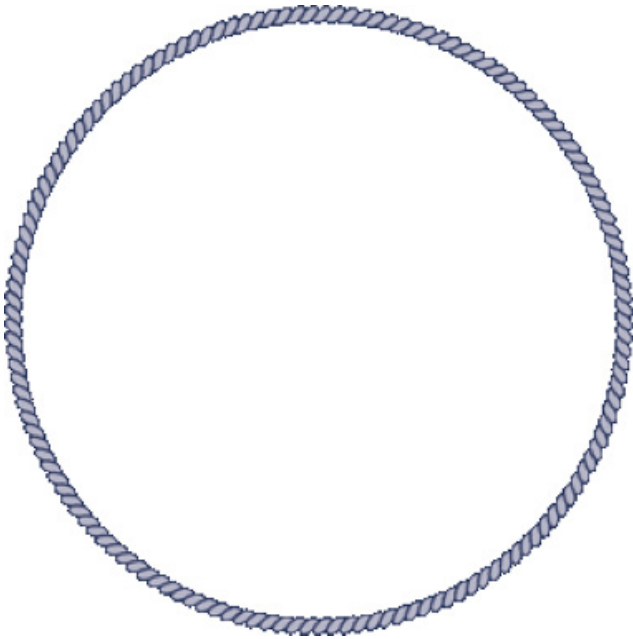
APPENDIX D

Spot Observations

“Accuracy of observation is the equivalent of accuracy of thinking”

– Wallace Stevens, American Poet

Like a scientist, you can use a variety of methods, tools, and techniques to understand your natural world. With just a rope and a field journal you can begin to observe and gather data through “Spot Observations.”



1. Choose a spot you can keep a close eye on.
2. Take a rope or string that is about 3-4 ft. long and tie the ends together to form a circle.
3. Lay the circle you have made on the spot you have chosen.
4. Visit the spot at different times of the day and over several days. Notice changes that are taking place (are insects living there, anything growing, any evidence of life, is the spot sunny or in the shade)
5. Record your observations, questions, and hypothesis in your field journal