

UNDERWATER WOW!



By Kristine Webber



MAKE AN UNDERWATER SCOPE

Using an underwater viewer enables you to discover much about life underwater without having to catch any animals. You can use the viewer in a stream, lake or in tide pools.

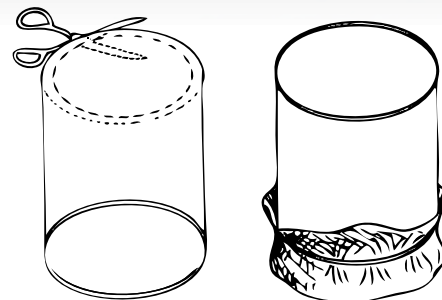
YOU'LL NEED:

🔪 A large can or pop bottle 🔪 Clear plastic 🔪 Strong elastic bands 🔪 Scissors, x-acto knife or can opener

WHAT TO DO:

- ▶ Carefully take the top and bottom off a tin or a plastic bottle (get an adult to help you).
- ▶ Ensure that there are no sharp edges.
- ▶ Fix the clear plastic tightly to one end with an elastic band.
- ▶ Push this end into the water, look through the clear end.

Now you can explore the underwater world with your scope! Depending on the type of aquatic environment you are looking at (for example, freshwater or marine, still water like a pond or moving such as a stream), you will be able to see different underwater animals. Make sketches of your observations and see if you can identify the creatures using



aquatic animal guides. The types of animals found in an environment can also give us clues as to the health of the environment. For example stonefly larvae are very sensitive to pollution and if you find them in a stream, the water is very clean.



For more ideas on exploring nature with your family, visit the Young Naturalists' Club at www.ync.ca. If you are already a member of the YNC, remember you can use Make An Underwater Scope as part of your Action Awards Quest! Order your print copy or access the free digital version of the SalmonWILD educational resource at www.ync.ca.

