



Frisch's Outreach: Wetlands (Gr.1-3) Extensions

At a glance

Increase understanding of wetlands as a habitat, the basic needs they provide for wildlife, and what they do for the environment.

Goal

This class is designed to familiarize students with the many elements wetlands provide for the earth and its inhabitants.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to list two kinds of wetlands.
2. Students will be able to name at least two animals that inhabit wetlands.
3. Students will be able to describe the importance of wetlands to our natural world.
4. Students will develop a respect for animals and the role they play in the natural world.

Theme

Wetlands provide many things for numerous living organisms.

Sub-themes

1. Wetlands must have water present at some time during the year.
2. Wetlands are a suitable and unique habitat for a wide variety of life.
3. Wetlands are an important part of our natural world.

Academic standards

Ohio Science Academic Content Standards	<p><i>First Grade Standards</i> Life Sciences—1 Scientific Inquiry—1, 2</p> <p><i>Second Grade Standards</i> Life Sciences—1, 2, 3, 6, 7 Scientific Inquiry—2, 3, 5, 6</p> <p><i>Third Grade Standards</i> Life Sciences— 6</p>
Kentucky Core Content— Science	<p><i>Grades Primary through 4</i> SC-E-3.1.2; SC-E-3.1.3; SC-E-3.3.2; SC-E-3.3.3</p>

Vocabulary

Amphibian- vertebrates with smooth skin that live in water and on land. They mature by growing during metamorphosis.

Bayou- creek or minor river that leads to another body of water; any of various water ways that are usually marshy or sluggish

Bog- a wet or spongy poorly drained ground with accumulated plant material

Crustacean- invertebrates with hard outer shells, long feelers, and many jointed legs

Gills- an organ on a fish or immature amphibian used for obtaining oxygen from water

Marsh- a tract of wet land with many grasses and cattails

Metamorphosis-growth marked by abrupt changes in form or structure of an animal

Migration- to pass usually periodically from one region or climate to another for feeding or breeding

Mollusk- soft bodied invertebrates with shells

Nursery- a place where young plants or animals grow or are cared for

Nymph- immature insect during incomplete metamorphosis which appears as a miniature adult but not yet fully mature

Swamp- wetland often or partially covered with water, one dominated by woody vegetation

Wetland- land or areas that are covered intermittently with shallow water or have soil saturated with moisture

Extension

Calling on Creativity!

Choose an animal from the wetlands. What special adaptations does it possess that enable it to live there? Represent those adaptations in paint, sculpture, or written descriptions.

What If Change Comes?

Try to decide if habitats change. What will wetland animals need to do if their habitat changes dramatically? Can you now describe or represent how their adaptations would change?

Wetland Listings!

Research and make a list of all animals that could be found in a wetlands habitat. Now group them according to class (bird, reptile, etc.)

Make a graph to show how each class of animals is represented in a Wetlands. Interpret the graph. Make conclusions as to why the numbers in the animal classes fall as they do.

Living As A Wetland Animal

Write a letter or keep a journal from a Wetland animal's perspective. Are you a permanent resident or are you an animal that uses a Wetland as a resting spot on your long migration path? Why do you stay or stop off at the wetland?

Mom Knows Best!

Be a Wetland animal mother! Tell why you choose to have your babies in a Wetland. Write or draw about how you chose this spot. How does a Wetland give your baby everything it needs? Can a Wetlands be a hard place to grow up? Why or why not?

Resources

McKeever, Susan, Freshwater Life of North America, Thunder Bay Press, San Diego, California, 1995.

Websites:

ALA's Great Websites for Kids:
Animals

<http://www.ala.org/gwstemplate.cfm?section=greatwebsites&template=/cfapps/gws/displaysection.cfm&sec=1>

Awesome Library – Kids

<http://www.awesomelibrary.org/Classroom/Science/Animals/Animals.html>

Awesome Library – Teachers

<http://www.awesomelibrary.org/Classroom/Science/Animals/Animals.html>

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

www.cincinnati-zoo.org