



Our Wetland Home

Suggested Curriculum links (Grade 4)

Life Science: Habitats

- 300-1 compare the external features and behavioural patterns of animals that help them thrive in different kinds of places
- 301-2 relate habitat loss to the endangerment or extinction of plants and animals

English Language Arts

- Students will speak and listen to explore, extend, clarify, and reflect on their thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences.

Materials

- Pencil

Overview

The plants within a wetland provide shelter for animals, filter the water and prevent flooding. In this activity, students will learn and reflect on the importance of wetlands.



Objectives

- To learn about the importance of wetlands to humans and animals.

Procedure

1. *Read out the “Our Wetland Home” story.*
2. *Answer the questions.*
Have the students answer the questions or discuss in class.

Extensions

- Ask the students to write in their journal things that they could do to help wetlands.

Resources

Books

Come Out, Muskrats. Arnosky, Jim. Lothrop Lee & Shepard. 1989.

Dragonflies. Brooks, Steve. Smithsonian Books. 2003.

Wetland Food Chains. Kalman, Bobbie and Burns, Kylie. Crabtree Publishing Company. 2006.

What Are Wetlands? Kalman, Bobbie and Bishop, Amanada. Crabtree Publishing Company. 2002.



Our Wetland Home

At the Fluvarium

Join us for *Alive and Living!* As the seasons change and the natural world awakens from its wintry sleep, children in Grade One will take part in an inquiry of living things around and inside The Suncor Energy Fluvarium.

Interactive, group based activities focused on characteristics and basic needs of organisms, with a special focus on the life cycle of a common freshwater invertebrate.

I'm a dragonfly hunting for mosquitoes and black flies. They are my favourite food. These insects hang around the still waters of my wetland home to lay their eggs. As I zoom around a pond I can see many creatures going about their day. Brown trout swim in the water looking for bugs to eat. Small, young trout live in-between aquatic plants like cattails and water lilies. These plants provide shelter for small fish and young ducks. Wetland plants also have the important job of filtering the water and preventing flooding. The whole wetland acts like a giant sponge. The plants slowly release water after heavy rains to prevent flooding. A Greater yellowlegs bird walks along the shore. It uses its long bill to stir up the mud to find small worms and insects to eat. In the middle of the pond beavers build their home which is called a lodge. They pack mud around a pile of cut down trees to make a strong house. I hear the "clung-clung" call of green frogs sitting on a log. A wetland is an amazing and great place to live!

1. Name three creatures that live in a wetland.
2. Name three important things that plants do in a wetland.
3. What would to the wetland if all the plants were removed?

