

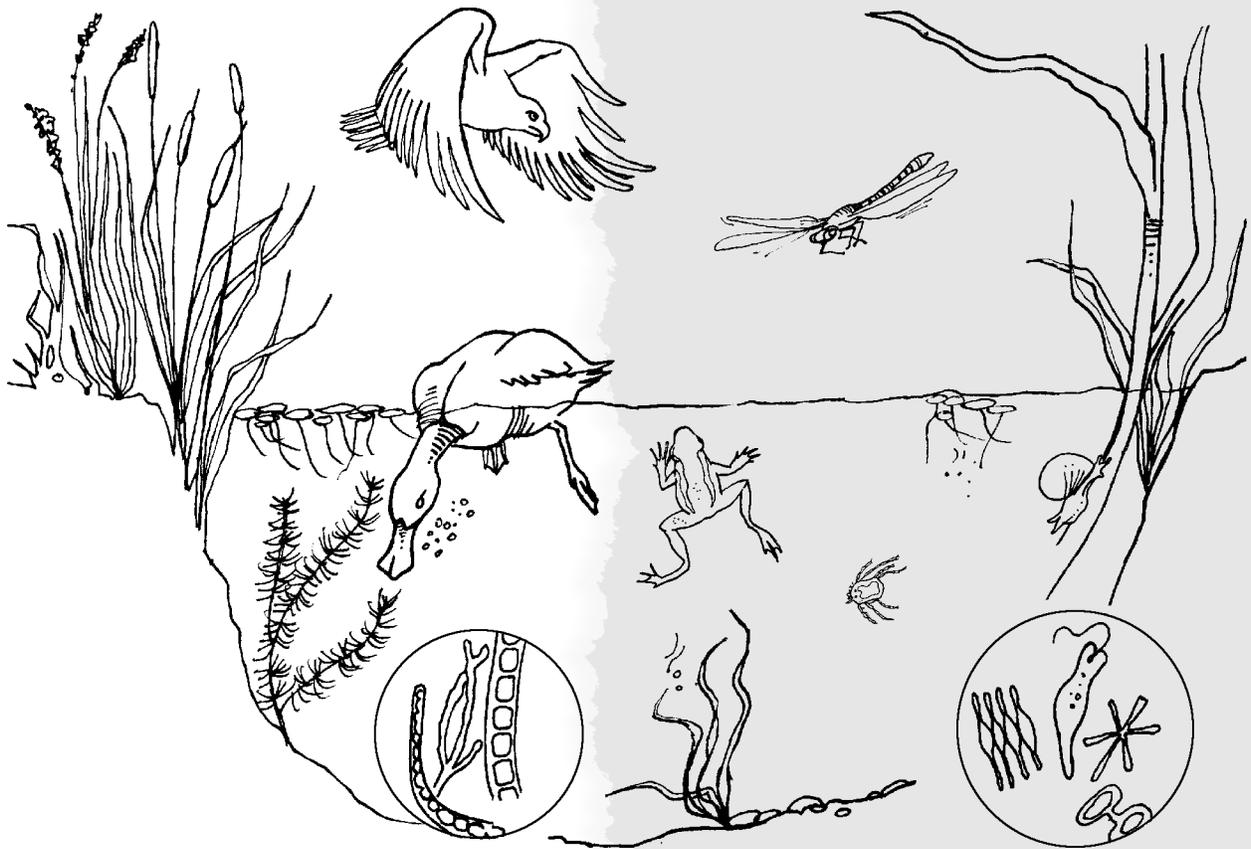
WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS II

INTERACTIONS AND ECOSYSTEMS

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE GRADES

7-8



PRESENTED BY Ducks Unlimited Canada

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Introduction

In this unit, wetlands found close to most communities across North America are used to demonstrate a wide variety of ecological concepts. Through the activities and lessons provided, students can develop the foundation for literacy in the life sciences. You can help students enhance their understanding of the environmental, technological and social aspects of science and encourage them to work together to solve problems. At Ducks Unlimited, it is our hope that students in the middle school level (grades seven and eight) will develop an appreciation for science and a sense of wonder about wetlands.

This unit combines a field trip to a wetland ecosystem with a variety of classroom activities. The field trip can be undertaken at any point in the unit but timing will depend most on season, weather conditions and opportunity. If a field trip is not possible, the classroom lessons and some of the activities may be used in a stand-alone format.

Lesson one

The environmental puzzle and abiotic factors

Curriculum alignment

1.p Environments can be described partly in terms of abiotic conditions.

Students will be expected to:

- identify, observe and measure abiotic factors in environments (e.g. temperature, moisture, available light).
- classify and describe an environment in terms of the abiotic factors that characterize it.

Materials

Per group: one piece of chart paper with the name of an ecosystem printed in the middle (see diagram 1.1), four felt pens (red, green, blue, black), pictures or diagrams of various types of ecosystems, student journal.

Activity description

1.- Provide each group of four to six students with chart paper with the name of an ecosystem (e.g. rain forest, prairie, estuary, boreal forest, tundra, etc.) printed in the middle of the page, felt pens and a picture or pictures of the specific ecosystem (do not include a wetland ecosystem). Demonstrate on the board the development of idea sharing as a strategy to brainstorm and record ideas and information. Ensure that students understand that they are to choose an ecosystem that they are familiar with and identify as many components of the ecosystem as possible. Have them write the words for each component with the black pen around the outside of the chart (see diagram 1.1)

2.- Have students continue to fill in their ideas by going around the table suggesting, then explaining, their ideas (e.g. where the idea should be located on the chart and why). If a student is unable to think of an appropriate response they may pass to the next student. If all students pass, the round table session is complete.

3.- When all groups have completed the task (or five minutes have elapsed), have the groups neatly circle the abiotic (nonliving) components of the environment with a blue pen.

4.- Once the abiotic components have been circled, have students circle the plants with a green pen and the animal life with a red pen.

5.- Students should identify relationships in the ecosystem by joining components with lines. In particular they should focus on the interrelationships of the abiotic factors existing in the identified ecosystem.

6.p Have students post and explain their charts to the rest of the class.

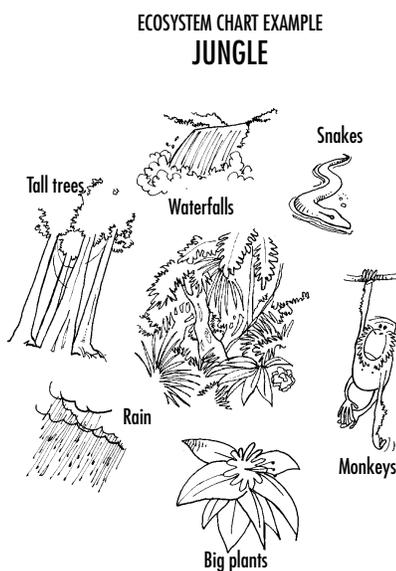
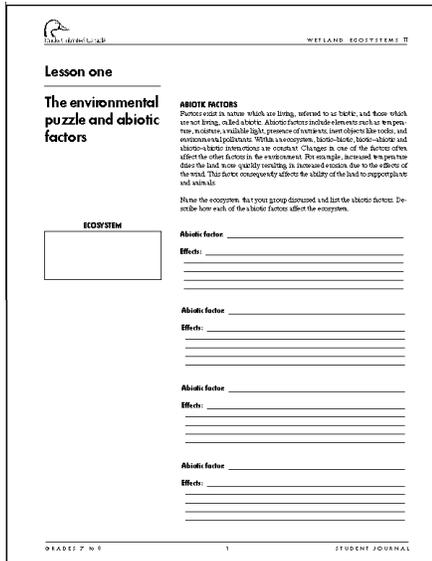
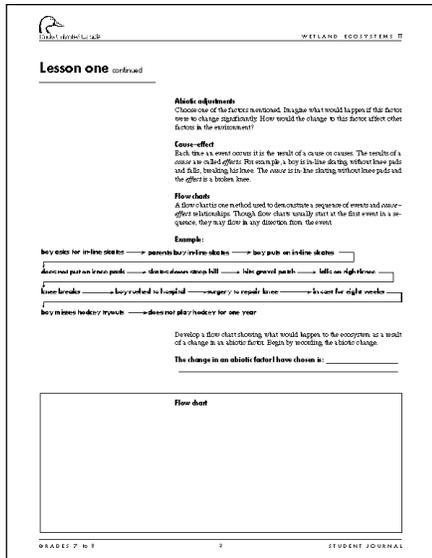


DIAGRAM 1.1

Lesson one continued



STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE ONE



STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE TWO

Assignment

- 1.- Have students record and explain on page one of their journal the function (effects) of each abiotic factor in the ecosystem assigned.
- 2.- Have students choose one abiotic change to the ecosystem and develop a flow chart (page two of the journal) of the cause–effect relationships involved between it and other biotic and abiotic factors in the environment (e.g. when the water evaporates in a wetland the minerals become more concentrated).
- 3.- Have students make one drawing of the ecosystem (or describe it) before the abiotic factor change and one after the change (page three of the student journal).
- 4.- Students are to complete the questions on page four of their journal for homework.

Supplementary activity

- identify, observe and measure abiotic factors in environments (e.g. temperature and available light)

Materials

Per group: one thermometer, a 1 cm x 6 cm multicolour (red, blue, green, black) plastic strip (make your own with waterproof marker pens and a piece of clear plastic), three to four sheets of black construction paper, three two-litre clear plastic pop bottles (enlarge the opening by cutting off the top), string, six tablespoons of black tempera powder, a small weight (e.g. a metal washer), a small desk lamp or sunny window location (heat source).

Activity description

1. Have students work in groups of four.
2. Students will set up three micro-environments and measure the difference in abiotic factors (temperature and turbidity).
3. Discuss with students the methods that could be used to measure these abiotic factors in a natural environment (refer to the field trip activity).
4. Discuss how these abiotic factors can affect plants and animals inhabiting wetland ecosystems.
5. Discuss how human activities might affect these abiotic features in a natural wetland.
6. Discuss how wetlands function to cleanse turbid or polluted water flowing into them overland or through an inlet stream.

Lesson one continued

info ZONE

Water flow through wetlands is slow. Particulate material suspended in the water column (e.g. eroded soil) will settle to the bottom of a wetland. Water leaving a wetland through an outlet stream will often be clearer than that entering. Wetland plants such as cattail absorb pollutants in the water, like fertilizers and heavy metals. These plants help to purify polluted water. The carp is a fish species introduced by people to North America from Europe and Asia. It feeds and breeds by rooting up aquatic vegetation on the bottom of wetlands. Carp increase the turbidity of many wetlands and reduce their value as habitat for other plants and animals.

info ZONE

The amount of light available to reflect from an object affects the colours that are reflected from that object. Long wavelengths, such as those found in the red end of the spectrum, are unable to reflect unless there is a great deal of light. As divers descend in water, red colours appear black. As turbidity increases or light penetration is reduced, visibility of objects in water is reduced. Plant life is reduced as turbidity increases because the light energy required for photosynthesis becomes unavailable.

Setting up the micro-environments (provide these instructions to students)

- Fill two of the containers with the same amount of cold tap water and record the temperature of each.
- Into one container stir in 3 tablespoons of black tempera powder and place both of the containers near a light source (lamp or sunny window).
- Record the temperature in each container every 15 minutes and graph the results.
- Note any differences that occur over time and discuss the reasons.
- Fill the third container with tap water.
- Poke two pencil-sized holes through a sheet of black construction paper about 15 cm apart. Wrap the paper around the container and tape it in place. Cover the remainder of the container with black paper.
- Attach (tie or tape) the weight (washer) to one end of the colour strip. Tie the string to the other end of the colour strip and hang the weighted strip in the container.
- Tape black paper over the top of the container.
- Look at the colour strip through one of the holes in the black paper. What colours are visible on the colour strip?
- Cover one of the holes in the black paper and again observe the colour strip through the other hole. What colours are now visible?
- Repeat the experiment after adding one, two and then three tablespoons of black tempera powder stirred into the container.

Lesson two

Habitats and wetland types

Curriculum Alignment

Within environments, specialized forms of life can often be found. The environmental needs of these living things can be inferred from their distribution and from their life habits.

Students will be expected to:

- become familiar with the types of wetlands and the characteristic plant and animal species that live in those habitats.
- identify and describe habitats and microhabitats.
- identify niches within an environment.

Activity description

1. Introduce the term *marsh ecosystem* by writing it on the board or overhead. Ask students to brainstorm what they would likely see in a marsh ecosystem. Copy their ideas on the board. Stimulate ideas by asking questions such as:
 - What would the ecosystems look like?
 - What would be the most important feature of your **marsh ecosystem**?
 - What might a marsh smell like?
 - What kinds of living things might you find in a marsh?
 - Where can marsh ecosystems be found?

When 20 or more ideas have been generated and recorded, ask students:

- What features would be different in other types of wetlands, including swamps, bogs and fens?

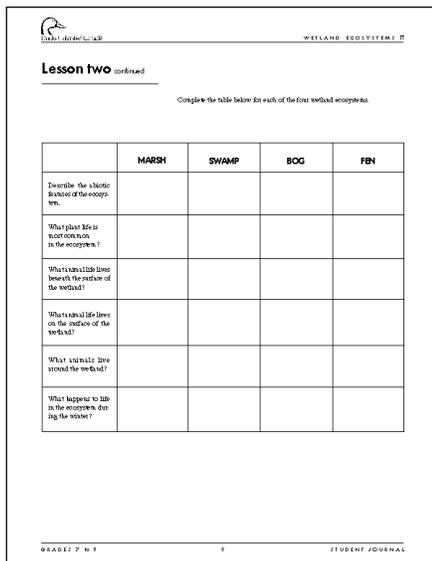
2.s Have students read the descriptions of the four wetland ecosystems on pages five to seven of the student journal and complete the chart on page eight.

3.s When students have completed the chart, have them turn to page nine of their journal and use the two representative diagrams of a pond (aerial view and cross-sectional view) and the short descriptions of the terms *habitat*, *microhabitat* and *niche* to answer the accompanying questions on page 10.

4.s Discuss answers to the questions. Be sure students understand that habitat and microhabitat refer to environmental conditions existing in a location, while niche refers to the place an organism fits in the hierarchy of organisms living within a specific habitat or microhabitat.

5.s Have students choose one microhabitat within a marsh and produce a drawing and/or narrative describing it. Students should understand that they will be evaluated on their ability to accurately include the biotic and abiotic components of the microhabitat and the biotic-biotic and biotic-abiotic relationships existing within the microhabitat.

6. Have students choose four different organisms that live in or around each of the four wetland ecosystems (marsh, swamp, bog and fen) and describe it's niche on page 10 of the student journal.



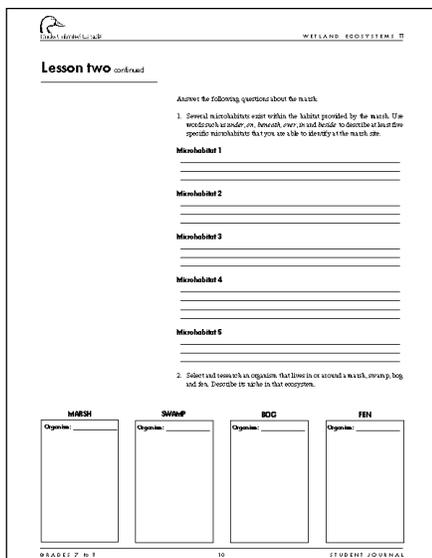
Lesson two continued

Complete the table below for each of the four wetland ecosystems.

	MARSH	SWAMP	BOG	FEN
Describe the characteristic features of the ecosystem.				
What plant life is most common in the ecosystem?				
What animal life lives beneath the surface of the wetland?				
What animal life lives on the surface of the wetland?				
What animal life lives around the wetland?				
What happens to life in the ecosystem during the winter?				

GRADE 7 to 8 STUDENT JOURNAL

STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE EIGHT



Lesson two continued

Answer the following questions about the marsh.

1. Several microhabitats exist within the habitat provided by the marsh. Use your marsh card and/or research over an old bottle to describe at least five specific microhabitats. Use lines to identify the marsh site.
 - Microhabitat 1 _____
 - Microhabitat 2 _____
 - Microhabitat 3 _____
 - Microhabitat 4 _____
 - Microhabitat 5 _____
2. Select and research an organism that lives in or around a marsh, swamp, bog, and fen. Describe its niche in that ecosystem.

MARSH	SWAMP	BOG	FEN
Organism: _____	Organism: _____	Organism: _____	Organism: _____

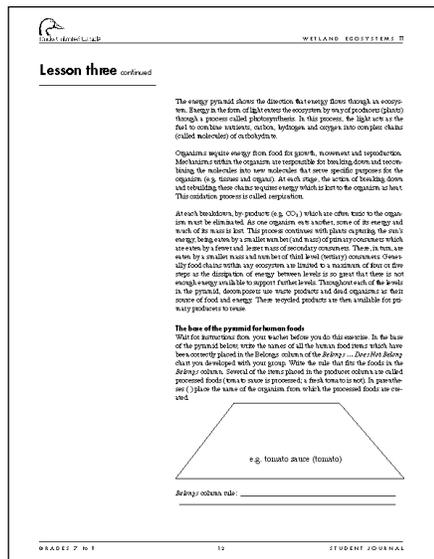
GRADE 7 to 8 STUDENT JOURNAL

STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE TEN

Lesson three

Energy pyramid

Note:
This is a complex lesson that can be spread over four or five classes.



STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE 12

info ZONE

Energy may be converted into matter (as occurs with plants) and matter is often converted into energy (food is converted into movement and body heat). Though energy may be lost to a particular ecosystem through heat, light or motion, it is not destroyed. Rather it is dissipated throughout several environments. The flow of energy through an ecosystem is one directional from the sun to the plants, through consumers and finally ending in the decomposers. Each trophic (living) level dissipates some energy back into the abiotic environment until the originally absorbed energy is no longer present within living members of the environment.

Curriculum alignment

The interdependence of living things is evident in the interactions of organisms with each other and with their environments.

Students will be expected to:

- classify animals within an ecosystem as producers, consumers and decomposers/scavengers
- recognize food chain relationships within an ecosystem
- identify energy flows and trophic levels within an ecosystem

Materials

Chart paper, three coloured felt pens (red, green, black), student journal

Activity description

1.s Have students form groups to brainstorm and record the foods they eat on chart paper. For items that are a combination of foods, students should list as many of the foods that make up the food as possible (e.g. pepperoni pizza is made up of pizza crust, cheese, tomato sauce and pepperoni). Allow them no more than five minutes to complete and post their charts. As students generate their charts you should generate a chart of your own listing items such as mushrooms and yogurt (i.e. bacteria and fungi as members of decomposers) as well as items such as hamburger, bread, apples, cheese, etc.

Choose one or more of the following ap roaches:

- 1.s With students remaining in groups, make a T-chart on the blackboard or overhead. Place the title *belongs* as a heading on the left side of the chart and *does not belong* on the right side of the chart. Without giving students the criterion for placement of listed items from their charts, write a food from a consumer (e.g. hamburger) on the right side of the chart under the *does not belong* heading and a food from a producer such as bread under the *belongs* column. Explain to students that you are using a rule to determine the things that go in each column and that for them to demonstrate their knowledge of the rule they are to select two foods from the charts they have generated that belong in the *belongs* column. As students suggest items, place them in the appropriate column saying either “Yes that item belongs” or “That item does not belong”. Students who recognize the criterion (things which produce food) early can turn to page 12 of their journal and write the rule for inclusion in the *belongs* column, then list foods from the charts that would be correctly placed in the producers zone. Continue until a majority of students have correctly identified at least one item for the *belongs* column.
- 2.s Refer the students to pages 11 and 12 in their journal to read and discuss the terms producer, consumer and decomposer. Have them use the coloured markers (green for producer, red for consumer and black for decomposer) to print the letters P, C or D beside each of the foods on the generated list.
- 3.s Once students have labelled the foods have them enter their group choices in the correct boxes in the *belongs/does not belong* chart and, on a separate piece of paper, complete the pyramid on page 12 of their journal.

Lesson three continued

info **Z**ONE

Populations of living things, particularly those of species closely related by availability of food or by common consumers above them in the food chain, are determined by competition. Two closely related amphipod species such as *Hyalloa azteca* and *Gammarus lineatus* are seldom found in close association or are present in significantly differing populations. Mouth part differences (adaptations) appear to be the significant limiting factor in the population numbers of the two species and the factor that reduces competition between them.

Possible solutions to energy flow problems on pages 13 and 14 of the student journal

Have the group discuss the problems which may have the following or other solutions.

Problem oneR

- a) The data collected has been mixed up. Re-check with the collectors of information to verify.
- b) Sources of food for the consumer levels exist outside the sampling area. Determine the kind of consumers in the ecosystem and the exact time (date and time) of sampling.
- c) The producer level has suffered a collapse and the other levels of consumers have not yet responded. Re-sample the location to determine if additional samplings will result in the same findings.

Problem twoR

- a) Organisms in the marsh are extremely mobile and the top consumer was in a different location at the time of sampling. Re-sample the pond in several locations and/or use different sampling techniques.
- b) Though large numbers of producers exist, there is not enough energy in the wetland to support top consumers.
- c) Organisms in the wetland appear in cycles. Top consumers were absent during this cycle. Re-sample the wetland.

Lesson four

Adaptations for food gathering

info ZONE

Setup for activity two

Gather and set up the following materials in different locations throughout the room.

1. Place several grapes in a narrow mouthed jar (such as a ketchup container).
2. Place several hard nuts (walnuts, hazelnuts, etc.) on a flat plate.
3. Mix several dried peas or beans into a litre of sand and place the material in a wide-mouthed bowl.
4. Cook spaghetti noodles and place them in a bowl with enough water to keep them moist.
5. Steam a portion of rice and place it in a soup bowl.
6. Place several carrots with stems attached (or other vegetable with stems and leaves attached) on a table or desk top.
7. Place 10 marbles in the bottom of a 500 ml plastic container.
8. Place 3 to 5 small dense rubber balls (squash ball sized) in a large mayonnaise container.

Curriculum alignment

The interdependence and adaptations of living things is evident in the interactions of organisms with each other and with their environments.

Students will be expected to:

- interpret distribution patterns of living things within their environments (e.g. interpret relationship to food sources and to means of avoiding predators).
- interpret plant and animal behaviours that indicate dependencies for food or for other needs.
- recognize specializations that are appropriate to organisms in particular habitats (e.g. specialized mouth parts, surface coverings).
- predict the effect of minor changes in characteristics of an animal or plant on its ability to survive in a given environment (e.g. changes in surface covering, colouration, relative size, shape of appendages).

Materials

Kitchen strainers, nut crackers, chopsticks, drinking straws, needlenose pliers, long-handled wooden spoons, bamboo skewers, forks, plastic pop bottles, ketchup bottle, wide mouth jar (e.g. mayonnaise jar), steamed rice, walnuts or hazelnuts (shells on), plastic soup bowl, cooked spaghetti noodles, fresh carrots (or other vegetables with stem and leaves attached), six paper bowls, dried beans or peas, sand, grapes, small dense rubber balls (e.g. squash balls), student journal (pages 23 to 25). Note: you will need enough of each type of utensil for each member of a team. Alternatively, team members can share equipment.

Activity one

- Have students consider the two imaginary animals on page 23 of the student journal. Which of the animals would be best suited to catching tiny microscopic bugs? Which would be best at hiding in a weedy location? Which would be best at catching worms? Which would be best at hiding on a pebbled substrate? Have students select and explain why they have made their selections. Students should add a feature to each of the imaginary organisms that would enable one of them to escape from a large fish and the other to escape from a bird (see page 24 of student journal).

Activity two

- Have students form groups of three to four, giving each of them a selection of foods that they have to access (see Info Zone above). Each group is given one of the following tools for gathering food: drinking straws, small strainers, needlenose pliers, chopsticks, plastic forks with the middle tines removed (outside tines only), nut cracker, long bamboo skewers (for shish kebabs) and a long-handled wooden spoon.

Lesson four continued

Lesson four continued

Large predatory fish, like northern pike, live in the steady part of the marsh. Describe a adaptation for the organism you placed in the steady area that will help to keep it from being eaten by pike. Explain the device and how it provides protection.

The clear, shallow water in slow areas is being the in a target for predatory birds. Describe a adaptation for the organism you placed in the open area that will help to keep it from being eaten. Explain the device and how it provides protection.

Role for gathering foods

- You will be in a job to transfer each food in a paper bowl using your assigned material and time how long this takes for each food.
- You may use only the tools given to you to collect the foods distributed around the room.
- The tool may be held in your hands only.
- You may not use any other material or body parts to collect the food.
- Labeled tools may not be used as traps.
- Calculate the average time taken by your team to gather each food.
- Just your team's average time to gather each food on, chart paper and draw conclusions.

Activity

To complete this activity, read the rules on this page and read the instructions from your teacher. Select the food that each of the tools is best able to collect based on average times for each team. Explain why the tool works.

Drinking straw _____

Small mirror _____

Needle nose pliers _____

Chopstick _____

Plastic fork _____

Net inside _____

Long bamboo skewer _____

Long handled wooden spoon _____

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STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE 24

- Explain to students that the materials set out around the classroom are *foodsw* and that they are to travel around the room in teams attempting to move the *foodsw* until they find one of them which they can transfer most efficiently into a paper bowl. Students should time, in seconds, how long it takes for them to transfer each of the materials (three items or scoops per student). The guidelines for getting the *foodsw* appear on page 24 of the student journal.
- When all students have completed the activity have them explain how their particular equipment was suited to getting some of the foods and inefficient for getting others. Ask them if they can think of examples in nature that demonstrate this principle. The following format should be used:
A hawk's beak is a good tool for tearing flesh but not good for catching bugs.w
Comparisons should be completed on page 25 of the student journal.

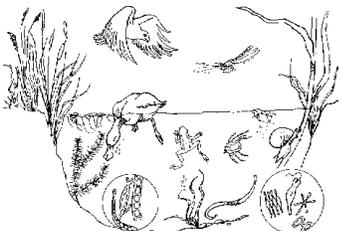
Lesson four continued

Once your teacher has provided instructions, give these examples of efficient and inefficient natural adaptations (e.g., a hawk's beak is a good tool for tearing flesh but not good for catching bugs).

Example 1 _____

Example 2 _____

Example 3 _____

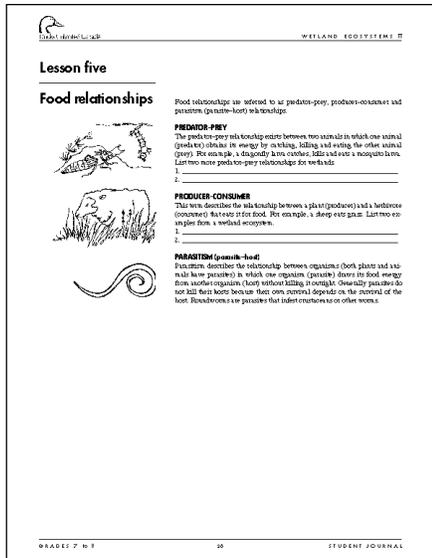


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STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE 25

Lesson five

Food relationships



STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE 26



Relationships activity

In this activity two students are given twelve squares of paper, four bearing a 0, four a + and four a -. The papers are to be folded and placed in a can, hat or box from which they can be drawn sight unseen. Each player selects a piece of paper and shows the symbol on it. The second player to draw the paper must name the relationship shown by the two cards (see appendix on page 23 of the educator's guide and page 30 in the student journal). If this player is unable to name the relationship the other player may try. Once the relationship is named the first player to draw the paper must name an organism in a relationship shown by the papers. The other player must name the second organism in the relationship. If either is unable to answer, the other may supply the answer. One point is given for each correct answer. Students must verify answers using the wetland relationships reading. At the end of four rounds, the person with the highest score wins.

Curriculum alignment

The interdependence of living things is evident in the interactions of organisms with each other and with their environments.

Students will be expected to:

- recognize examples of parasitism/predation, commensalism, competition, neutralism and mutualism.

Environmental interventions can be found to have both intended and unintended consequences.

Students will be expected to:

- predict consequences of selective addition or removal of living things from an environment

Materials

Student journal, pages 26 to 30, relationships squares (see appendix, page 20).

Activity description

- Discuss the relationships of hunter to hunted as the most well known form of animal interaction. This relationship is known as the predator-prey relationship. Have students list several predator-prey relationships on page 26 of their student journal.
- Other relationships exist in the animal and the plant kingdom in which living things do not directly prey upon one another but affect the lives of others. Have students read and complete the assignments on 26 to 29 of the student journal.
- Introduce the *relationship activity game* to students (see Info Zone). Students should participate in pairs. Allow 10 to 15 minutes.
- When students have completed playing the game, review the terms with them and ask them to consider if there are any relationships that are not necessary or are harmful to the overall ecosystem. Pose the following problem for homework or for classroom discussion if time permits (see page 29 of student journal):

Select an organism and explain how its removal from the wetland ecosystem would affect other members of the ecosystem.

Lesson six

Factors affecting aquatic plant populations

Curriculum alignment

Within environments, specialized forms of life can often be found. The environmental needs of these living things can be inferred from their distribution and from their life habits.

Students will be expected to:

- identify examples of variation in light, soil and temperature needs of organisms.
- predict the effect of changes in environmental conditions on the ability of particular plants and animals to survive in that environment (e.g. changes in temperature or moisture).

Materials

Wetland plants (preferably duckweed or other free floating plants), rooted plants from local ponds or inexpensive plants from tropical fish retailers, six clear baby food jars per team (or other suitable small, clear container), plastic food wrap, sticky labels (2 cm x 2 cm) or masking tape, pond water and/or dechlorinated water, indoor plant fertilizer/s (preferably high in potassium), graduated cylinders or measuring cups, soils (peat, small aquarium gravel, pond soils), fluorescent plant growth lights (if possible), blotting paper, weigh scales.

Activity description

1. Begin the lesson by talking about the differences in environmental conditions that exist in a wetland. If necessary use the following questions for discussion:
 - Is the amount of light available to organisms living in and around the wetland equal for all?
 - Do all microhabitats within the wetland environment have the same temperatures?
 - Is the amount of moisture available to organisms in and around the wetland the same for all organisms?
 - Do all organisms in and around the wetland have the same dependence on the soil?

The purpose of the activity is to help students focus on how the environment affects adaptations and the survival of organisms.

2. Ask students how plants in the wetland ecosystem affect other living things in that ecosystem.
 - What would happen to other organisms if all plants disappeared from the wetland? (It is likely that all other organisms would also disappear from the wetland.)

Lesson six continued



WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS II

Lesson six

Factors affecting aquatic plant populations

- Work in a group of three to five students.
- Each group will receive the following materials:
 - peat pots for each of each week, 40-60 (species and variety to be determined by teacher)
 - plastic bags just with plastic wrap for lids
 - water (ground or dechlorinated) to fill baby food jars
 - measuring containers (graduated cylinders or medicine cup)
 - ruler for measuring plants from light source
 - fertilizer or soil
 - seedling type (or sticky label) for labeling experiments
- With your group, decide on a single factor to test for its effect on the growth and production of the supplied wetland plants (if the effect of fertilizer is chosen, each member of the group could choose different concentrations of substance to test in comparison to a control with no fertilizer). Other factors might include temperature, light, soil or fertilizer, salinity, etc. Record your plant material and weigh over the same amount to verify each sample. Record your pre-experiment plant weights.
- Each member of the group must write a hypothesis about what they believe the result will be of the group's experiment. Indicate which member will produce results and clearly naming the findings (observed by your teacher) to double the population (biomass) of plants in two weeks.
- At the end of the experiment remove the plants from their containers, blot off excess water, measure biomass on a weigh scale and compare the results to the control and to pre-experiment weight.
- When the investigation is complete each member of the group must provide an explanation of how the observed findings, if explained as a natural occurrence, would affect populations and other likely environmental consequences of this would be.

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STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE 31

What factors might cause the disappearance of plants from the wetland ecosystem (significant changes in the amount of moisture, additions of toxic elements to the environment, large temperature changes, atmospheric alterations, over-grazing by consumer populations)?

- How might increasing the producer base in an environment affect the number and diversity of species in a wetland ecosystem?
3. Show students the materials they will be using for exploring environmental factors affecting producers in a wetland environment. Provide students with the following challenge and guidelines (see below) for determining optimum conditions for the increase in levels of producers in an aquatic environment.
 4. Have students set up their experiments as described on page 31 of their journal.

Challenge

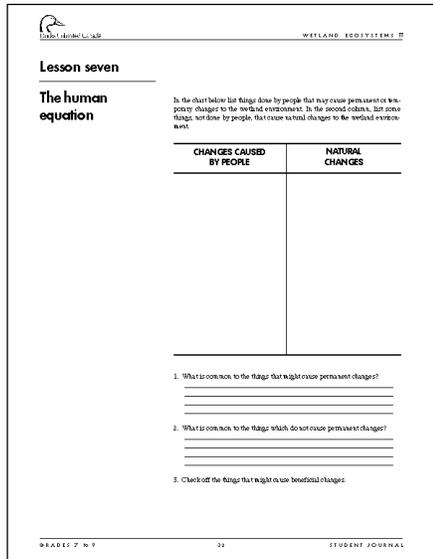
Within two weeks, double the population (biomass) of wetland producers over that of a control.

Guidelines

- Only supplied soil, nutrients, lights, water and plants may be used.
- All experiments must have a control and test only one variable at a time (e.g. the concentration of a specific or named nutrient).
- Each test must be accompanied by an hypothesis (i.e. what is believed and why).
- Each completed investigation must have the observed results of the investigation and an explanation as to what the results would mean (inference) to the populations of the plant tested and to dependent organisms within the wetland.

Lesson seven

The human equation



STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE 32



ADDITIONAL PROJECT FORMULAS

1. Tell a story about what you have learned and what needs to be done, or give a short speech about what needs to be done.
2. Use diagrams to show what will happen in the future for two possible logical outcomes to the problem.
3. Make a drawing or painting using real or abstract images to depict the problem and two possible logical outcomes to the problem.
4. Create a dance, role play or drama depicting one possible outcome for human intervention on the land.
5. Create a melody or rhythm telling the story of the land.
6. Create a dialogue between two sides of the issue. Each side should demonstrate understanding the other side's point of view and both should work toward compromise.
7. Choose one wetland, forest and grassland organism and create a word image of what these organisms see and feel while their environment changes.

Curriculum alignment

Environmental interventions can have both intended and unintended consequences.

Students will be expected to:

- identify intended purposes and consequences (positive and negative) of human activities in local environments.
- predict consequences of selective addition or removal of living things from an environment.
- predict consequences of the addition of pesticides, herbicides or other pollutants to an environment.
- predict the consequences of forest clearing, wetland drainage, road construction and “sod busting” for crop production.
- describe the mechanisms of food chains/webs and food pyramids on the concentration of pollutants in living things.

Materials

Student journal, pages 32 to 35.

Activity description

1. Introduce the lesson with the questions:

What things done by people can cause changes to the biotic and abiotic components of a wetland?

What things occurring naturally can cause changes to the biotic and abiotic components of wetlands?

2. Give students three minutes to generate ideas and write them in their journal on page 32. While students are generating their ideas, make a T-chart on the blackboard or overhead. Place the headings, *changes caused by people* and *natural changes* at the top of the chart. When you are ready, ask students to give you ideas and write them in the correct column of the chart. Ask the students to define which changes might be permanent (P) versus those that might be temporary (T). Check off the changes which are beneficial to the ecosystem.

Have students form groups of four to work on the problem outlined on page 33 of the student journal.

Depending on the amount of time available and the nature of the class, this activity can be as short as one class or assigned as a take-home project to be completed outside of class time. Suggestions for adapting the activity to varying lengths of time are included below. Students will complete the assignments on pages 34 and 35 of their journal. If time permits conduct other assignments outlined in the Info Zone on this page.

Lesson seven continued

Tips for adapting the final project

One to two classes

- Have students form pairs within a larger group of four to six.
- Students take turns first reading then summarizing one paragraph of information at a time (e.g. student one reads a paragraph then explains what it means or is asking. Student two then gives an opinion of the excerpt.) This procedure is repeated for student two and the process continues until the piece is complete.
- Student pairs decide how they will present their ideas and opinions for the solution to the problem. As time is limited it is important that students realize that they must spend most of their time working on problem solving rather than on the presentation approach. By limiting the time for each phase of the activity and strictly adhering to it, it is likely you will have time to finish (10 minutes for problem sharing, five minutes for project selection, 15 minutes for preparation, 10 to 15 minutes for presentation). Times may be doubled for everything except problem sharing if two classes are used.
- When preparation time is up, have pairs present their work to their group (for one day), then select one presentation from their group that will be presented to the whole class (for two days).

Three to six classes

First class

- Each member of the group of four to six should read the problem and provide a written solution as to what should be done about the problem.
- Group members share their ideas with the group. After each group member has shared, other group members provide feedback (on things they agreed with and things that they believe need to be re-thought).

Second class

- Group members meet to decide how the problem should be solved. Students also decide how they will present their ideas. They must choose five of the seven following ways to present their feelings and ideas (see Info Zone on page 13):
 - a. Factual report/s, speech or story
 - b. Development and solution of the problem from two or more points of view
 - c. Use of drawing or painting to depict the outcomes of two or more solutions to the problem
 - d. Create a drama, role play or creative dance depicting the problem and a solution to it
 - e. Create a musical composition (rap, ballad, melody or rhythm), record and combine sounds into a musical presentation depicting the problem and at least one solution

Lesson seven continued

- f. Create a plan for solving the problem including what must be done, the order that it must be done in, and who will do each of the activities (all students in the class may be included but empathy for individuals is one criterion for success in this activity)
 - g. Develop a personal inventory of things that you do as an individual that contribute to the problem and changes in life style that would help to alleviate the problem
- Group members begin work on projects

Third (to fifth) class

- Students work on projects. At the beginning of each class remind them that they should focus on the problem and its solution while developing effective products and presentations.
- Toward the end of this phase students exchange pieces and help to edit them by expressing what they like about it and what they think needs to be worked on.
- Group decides on the two projects that they will present to the class.

Fourth (to sixth) class

- Students present projects to the class.
- Other students in the class evaluate how well the presentations have addressed the problem and a solution to it.

Field trip manual

Science Building Foundations

1. Questioning

- recognizing patterns and discrepant events
- identifying and asking relevant questions

2. Proposing Ideas

- hypothesizing relationships among specific living things
- hypothesizing relationships between specific living things and abiotic conditions of their environment
- predicting the effects of given abiotic conditions on the health and distribution of living things in an environment

3. Designing Experiments

- identifying and controlling variables
- developing experimental procedures

4. Gathering Data

- observing living things in their environments
- observing the distribution of living things in environments
- measuring

5. Processing Data

- classifying living things within a study plot (in formal classification only)
- organizing and presenting data

6. Interpreting Data

- inferring evidence of relationships between living things
- inferring the effect of environmental conditions on the distribution of living things in an environment
- developing theoretical explanations

Concepts

1. Environments can be described in terms of **abiotic** conditions.

Students will be expected to:

- identify, observe and measure abiotic factors of wetland environments (e.g. temperature, moisture, available light)
 - describe the wetland environment in terms of the abiotic factors that characterize it
2. The interdependence of living things is evident in the interactions of organisms with each other and with their environments.

Students will be expected to:

- interpret **distribution patterns** of living things within their environments (e.g. interpret relationship to food sources and to means of avoiding **predators**)
- interpret plant and animal **behaviours** that indicate dependencies for food or for other needs
- recognize examples of **parasitism, commensalism** and **mutualism**
- classify animals within an **ecosystem** as **producers, consumers** and **decomposers**
- recognize **food chain/web** relationships within a wetland ecosystem
- identify **energy flows** within the ecosystem

3. Within environments, specialized forms of life can often be found. The environmental needs of these living things can be inferred from their **distribution** and from their **life habits**.

Students will be expected to:

- identify and describe **habitats** and **microhabitats**
- recognize **specializations** that are appropriate to organisms in particular habitats (e.g. specialized mouth parts, surface coverings)
- identify **niches** within an environment
- identify examples of **variation** in light, soil and temperature needs of organisms
- predict the effect of minor changes in characteristics of an animal or plant on its ability to survive in a given environment (e.g. changes in surface covering, colouration, relative size, shape of appendages)
- predict the effect of changes in environmental conditions on the ability of particular plants and animals to survive in that environment (e.g. changes in temperature or moisture)

4. **Human and technological interventions** can have both intended and unintended consequences.

Students will be expected to:

- identify intended purposes and consequences (positive and negative) of human activities and technologies in local environments
- predict consequences of selective addition or removal of living things from an environment

Field trip manual

continued

- predict consequences of the addition of **pesticides, herbicides** or other **pollutants** to an environment
- describe the effects of food chains/webs and **food pyramids** on the **concentration of pollutants** in living things

Site

Select a small, shallow wetland close to your community that can be approached and entered safely. Request permission from the owner to use the wetland or seek the advice of an outdoor education facility in your area to assist in the delivery of this component.

Materials

Per group: plastic tub, tape measure, 10 stakes with coloured flags (cut coat hangers with coloured surveyor's ribbon attached at top), 30 metres of strong string, 25 clear ziplock sandwich bags, turkey baster, five petri dishes with lids, hip waders, supplies to build four sampling nets* (two pairs of used pantihose, four wire coat hangers, one pair of pliers), five clear two-litre pop bottles with lids, one pair scissors, five hand lenses, one thermometer, two hockey stick shafts (or similar size and shape object), five baby food jars with lids, two ice cream pails with lids, three white styrofoam egg cartons, one kitchen strainer, four pH test strips, soup can with lid removed.

Per class: duct tape, binocular dissecting microscope*, Secchi disc* and calibrated cord, chest waders*, canoe*, supplies for fifteen underwater scopes (five 60 cm lengths of approximately 15 cm inside diameter black PVC, five 16 cm by 16 cm plexiglass squares, small tube of silicon – see appendix for instructions).

*optional equipment. Note: Instead of building the nets, you can get inexpensive aquarium nets at any pet shop. Another inexpensive alternative is to bind or tape a small plastic flour sieve to a hockey stick handle.

Preparation

Organize the equipment, prefabricate materials and establish student teams in advance of the field trip. Prior to the field trip, have the students review pages 36 to 49 in their student journal to become familiar with the routine they will follow. Discuss this in class. You may wish to practice some of the activities at school before your field trip (see page 38).

Field Trip Activity one

Wetland maps

 WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS II

**Field trip
Activity one**

Wetland maps

Make two drawings to scale of the wetland site — one, a bird's eye view, the second a cross-sectional view through the middle of the wetland.

Draw a bird's eye view map of the wetland and surrounding shoreline showing important features like buildings, roads, open water areas and plants. Show the location of your transect and sampling sites (see page 48).

SCALE
1 cm = _____

KEY

The cross-sectional drawing will show the relative slopes of the land and water surface of the wetland. Draw it as if you are standing at ground level, a good distance from the wetland, and looking from the middle of the wetland to approximately 20 metres up one side into the uplands. Record the major features.

SCALE
1 cm = _____

KEY

GRADE 7 to 8 26 STUDENT JOURNAL

STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE 36

 WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS II

Activity one *continued*

Field trip notes

Observations of the wetland
List the plants and animals you see. Include any unusual signs or sounds (e.g. tracks, nests, burrows, etc.)

Plants:

Name: _____
Date: _____
School: _____
Date: _____
Location: _____

Animals:

Other observations:

Temperature: _____ °C
Wind Speed: _____ Km/h
Wind Direction: _____
Cloud Cover: _____ per cent
Cloud Type: _____

GRADE 7 to 8 27 STUDENT JOURNAL

STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE 37

Curriculum Alignment

Environments can be described in terms of abiotic conditions.

*Students will be expected to:*D

- identify, observe and measure abiotic factors in environments (e.g, temperature, moisture, available light, human structures, etc.)
- classify and describe an environment in terms of the abiotic factors that characterize it

Materials

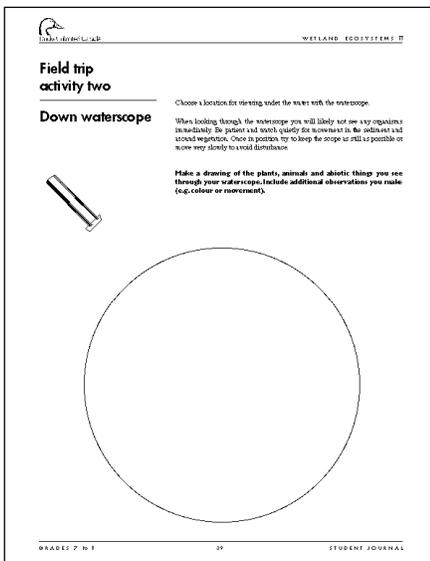
Student journal.

Activity Description

1. After students are off the bus take them on a quick tour around the wetland, posing questions such as:
 - What do you think formed the wetland?
 - How many different microhabitats can you identify in and around the wetland site?
 - What changes to abiotic (non-living) factors might cause changes to biotic (living) elements?
 - Have the students record pertinent data and observations on page 37 of their journal.
2. When the wetland has been fully circled (or you have gone as far as necessary), have students complete their bird's eye and elevation drawings of the wetland site on page 36 of their student journal.
3. When drawings are satisfactory, continue on to Activity Two.

Field Trip Activity two

Down waterscope



Curriculum Alignment

Environments can be described in terms of abiotic conditions.

Students will be expected to:

- identify, observe and measure abiotic factors in environments (e.g, temperature, moisture, available light)
- classify and describe an environment in terms of the abiotic factors that characterize it

Materials

Underwater scope (see appendix, page 24), student journal.

Activity Description

1. After students have completed Activity One, ask them to choose a location for viewing under the water with the waterscope.
2. Have students make a drawing (page 39 of the student journal) of the plants, animals and abiotic things they view through the waterscope.
3. Continue to Activity Three.

Field Trip Activity three

Wetland sampling transect

Curriculum Alignment

Gathering data

- observing living things in their environments
- observing the distribution of living things in environments
- measuring

Environments can be described in terms of abiotic conditions.

Students will be expected to:

- identify, observe and measure abiotic factors in environments (e.g. temperature, moisture, available light)
- classify and describe an environment in terms of the abiotic factors that characterize it.

Materials

Tape measure, stakes with flags, student journal, 30 metre string, eye protection, work gloves, rubber boots or hip waders.

Activity description

Classroom Preparation (one class)

1. Form student teams (four to five students per group).
2. Have students cut and straighten all but two coat hangers and attach approximately 30 cm of coloured surveyor's ribbon to one end (do this job at school before the field trip). Emphasize care and safety in this activity to avoid injury (use eye protection and work gloves).
3. Have students carefully measure and tie a knot at three metre intervals along the 30 m string.
4. Explain that the stakes and string will be used to mark an area (transect) for their group at the wetland site. Instruct students to record soil hardness on page 40 of their journal.
5. Show students how this measurement is done.
 - Students begin by wading into the pond testing the depth of the water with one of the stakes. Rubber boots or hip waders will be required.
 - At about four metres from shore, push the first stake into the bottom of the wetland so that it stands on its own with the surveyor's ribbon approximately 15 cm above the water line.
 - Attach the string to the stake then move parallel to the shore in the same depth of water until reaching a three metre knot. Place the second stake here.
 - Continue to move parallel to the shore in this depth of water until reaching the next three metre knot. Place the third stake in the soil at this point.
 - Turn and move directly back toward shore until reaching the next three metre knot in the string. Place the fourth stake here and attach the string.
 - Continue to move in a straight line away from the wetland until reaching the next two three-metre intervals. Place a stake at each of these intervals and attach the string.
 - Continue to place stakes in the soil at three metre intervals (indicated by the knots in the string) as shown in diagram A3.1. Be sure to turn left at stake number six and again at stake number eight. Attach the end of the string to the original stake. If the string does not meet the original stake, try moving stakes six and eight closer or farther away, then adjusting the intermediate stakes accordingly.

Practice at school, in the classroom or the outdoors is recommended.

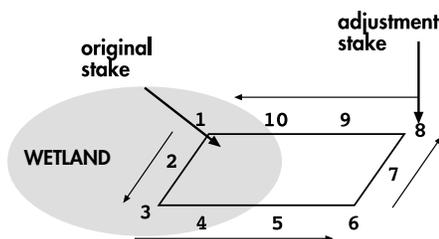


DIAGRAM A3.1

Field Trip Activity four

Data collection and analysis

Curriculum Alignment

The interdependence of living things is evident in the interactions of organisms with each other and with their environments.

*Students will be expected to:*D

- work in teams to collect abiotic data (temperature, water clarity, pH, soil)
- work in teams to collect biotic samples
- interpret distribution patterns of living things within their environments (e.g. interpret relationship to food sources and to means of avoiding predators)
- interpret plant and animal behaviours that indicate dependencies for food or other needs
- classify animals within an ecosystem as producers, consumers and decomposers
- recognize food chain/web relationships within an ecosystem
- identify energy flow within an ecosystem

Materials

All of the materials listed on page 17.

Lesson preparation

Duplicate and place copies of the organism identification sheets (see appendix on pages 25 to 27) in the top portion of several egg cartons (at least one for each pair of students in each zone – littoral, limnetic, and benthic). Assemble all of the equipment needed, assign teams and practice field procedures.

Activity description

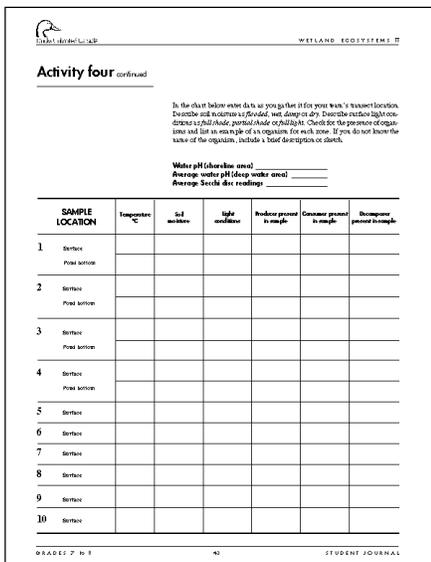
1. Students should decide who will be responsible for each of the tasks before they arrive at the wetland.
2. Be sure that students come with rubber boots and proper clothing. At least one student in each group should have a pair of hip waders.

Proper dress includes:

- Clothing layered for at least 5 °C colder than the school location
 - Change of socks and footwear
 - Rain jacket
 - Mosquito repellent and sunscreen
 - waterproof footwear
3. Each group of students will stake out a transect (Activity Two) and use an area to conduct the following measurements, observations, samplings and recordings. Procedures are outlined in the student journal on page 41 and 42.
 - Take temperature measurements at the surface of the soil and at the surface and bottom of the water (where applicable) at each three metre mark and record findings in the chart on page 43 of the student journal.
 - Have students record soil moisture and light conditions at each transect location as described on page 43 of the student journal.
 - Collect a soil sample at each three metre mark and place it in a labelled ziplock bag for further inspection back in the lab.

Activity four continued

- Measure water turbidity (how light available to pond organisms is affected by water clarity) using a Secchi disc (optional). See page 41 for instructions.
 - Take the pH of the water at two locations (shoreline and deepest starting corner mark).
4. Monitor student progress to ensure that measurements and observations are being correctly handled (e.g. locations of temperature noted correctly, soil and organism samples correctly labelled and stored.)
 5. Dry land collections should also be completed while water collections are being done. Record the location of organisms on the ground, under the soil, in grass, in dead plant material, on leaves and in or on bark.
 6. For water organisms, place some water in a petri dish and place the dish on a piece of white paper for contrast. Use the hand lens to view specific organisms. As organisms are identified, place them in the corresponding egg cup.
 7. Based on what you learned on the field trip, undertake Activities Five and Six back in the classroom. See pages 44 to 49 in the student journal.
 8. Review Activity Five on page 44 and 45 of the student journal. Complete the exercises in class. The field exercise is optional and may be conducted in the school yard if conditions permit.



Activity four continued

In the data below enter data as you gather it for your wetland location. Describe and measure a flooded, wet, deep or dry. Describe vegetation, soil conditions, pH (shallow, partial shade or full shade). Check for the presence of organisms and list in one sample of organisms for each area. If you do not know the name of the organism, include a brief description or sketch.

Water pH (shallow area) _____
 Average water pH (deep water area) _____
 Average Secchi disc readings: _____

SAMPLE LOCATION	Temperature °C	Soil moisture	Light conditions	Plants present in sample	Animals present in sample	Organisms present in sample
1 Shoreline Pool bottom						
2 Shoreline Pool bottom						
3 Shoreline Pool bottom						
4 Shoreline Pool bottom						
5 Shoreline						
6 Shoreline						
7 Shoreline						
8 Shoreline						
9 Shoreline						
10 Shoreline						

GRADES 7 to 8 43 STUDENT JOURNAL

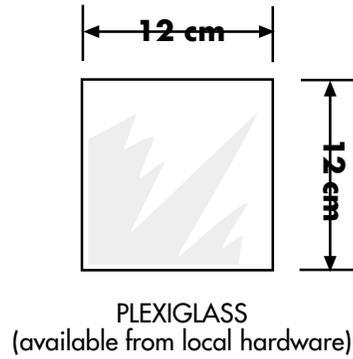
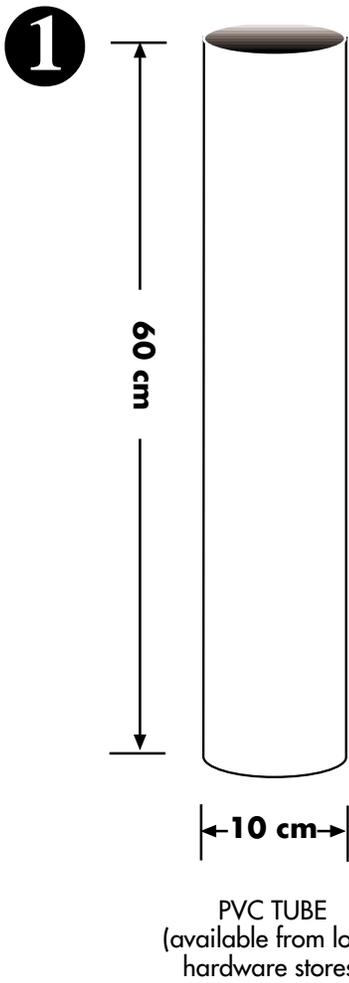
STUDENT JOURNAL PAGE 43

Relationship squares

Copy a set of these 12 squares for each two person team in your class. The following symbols denote a specific relationship:

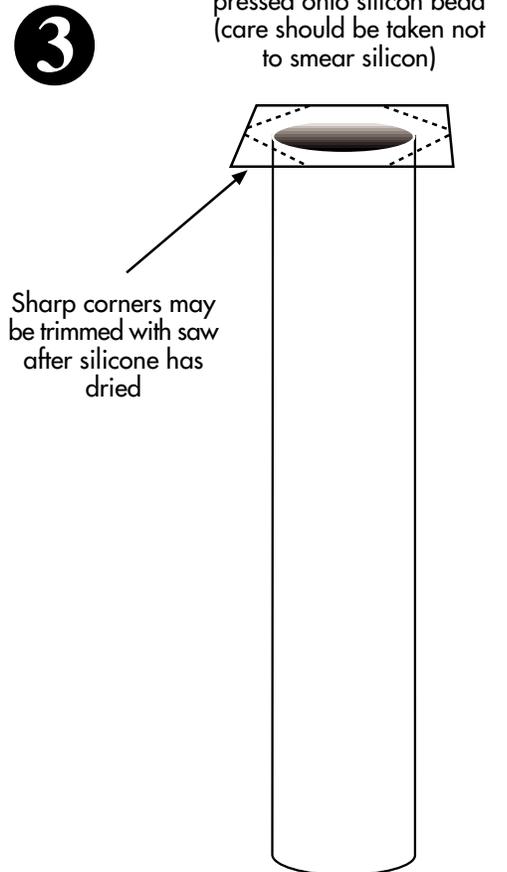
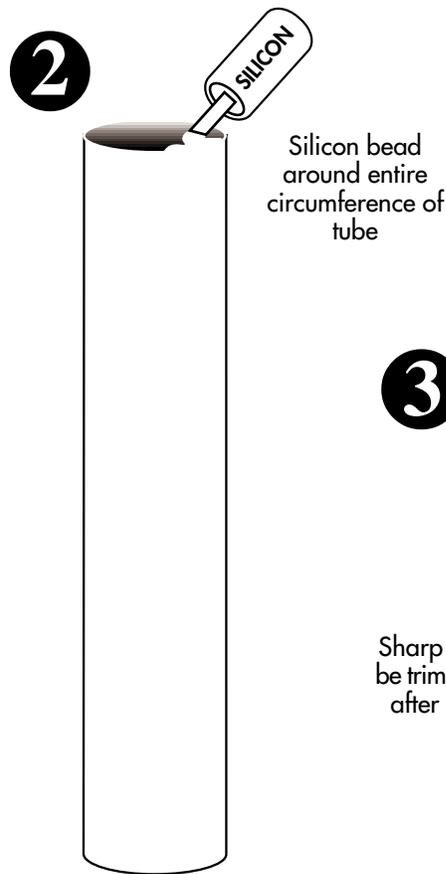
- 00** neutralism (e.g. red-winged blackbird, snipe)
- -** competition (e.g. hawk, owl)
- +0** commensalism (e.g. duck, beaver)
- ++** mutualism (e.g. bees, flowering plants)
- + -** parasitism (e.g. wood tick, deer)
or predation (e.g. fox, duck)

0	0	0	0
+	+	+	+
-	-	-	-

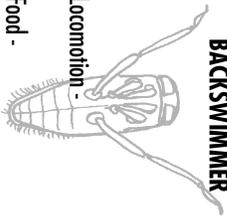
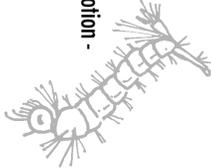
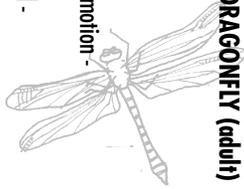
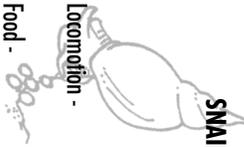
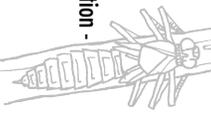
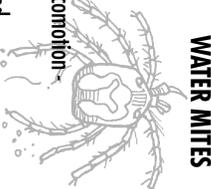
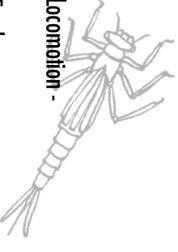


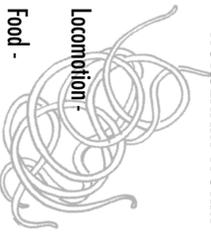
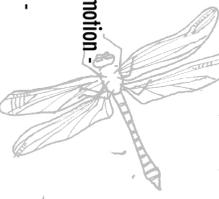
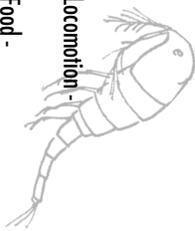
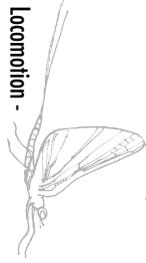
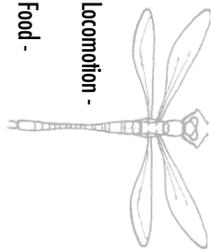
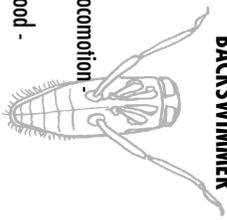
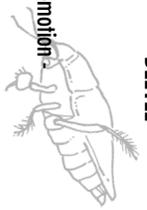
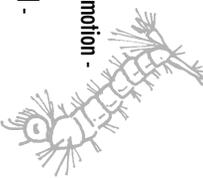
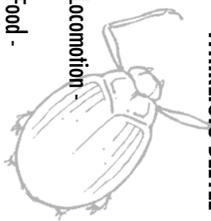
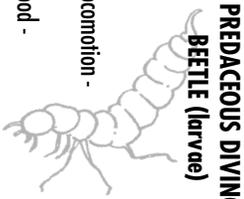
NOTE: If plexiglass is unavailable, heavy, clear plythene can be used and attached with thick elastic bands.

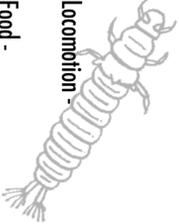
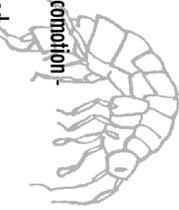
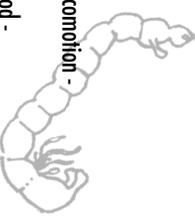
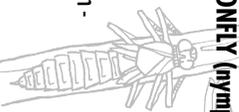
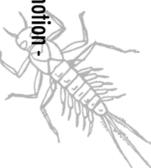
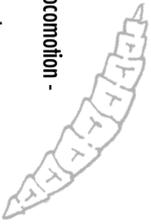
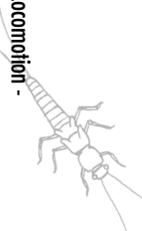
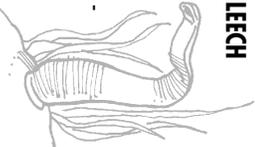
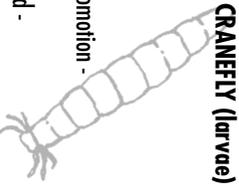
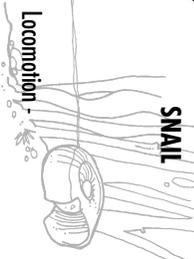
To view underwater life push the plexiglass end into the water at an angle and look through the open end.



Constructing an Underwater Scope

 <p>BACKSWIMMER Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>CADDISFLY LARVAE Locomotion - Food -</p>	<p>SHALLOW WATER (LITTORAL) ORGANISMS</p>
 <p>WATER BOATMAN Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>MOSQUITO (larvae) Locomotion - Food -</p>	
 <p>WHIRLIGIG BEETLE (larvae) Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>DRAGONFLY (adult) Locomotion - Food -</p>	
 <p>SNAIL Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>SPRINGTAIL Locomotion - Food -</p>	
 <p>GAMMARUS Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>DRAGONFLY (nymph) Locomotion - Food -</p>	
 <p>WATER MITES Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>DAMSELFLY (nymph) Locomotion - Food -</p>	

 <p>HORSEHAIR WORM Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>DRAGONFLY (adult) Locomotion - Food -</p>	<p>DEEP WATER (LIMNETIC) ORGANISMS</p>	
 <p>COPEPOD Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>MAYFLY (adult) Locomotion - Food -</p>		
 <p>DAPHNIA (sp) Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>DAMSELFLY (adult) Locomotion - Food -</p>		
 <p>BACKSWIMMER Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>WATER STRIDER Locomotion - Food -</p>		
 <p>PREDACIOUS DIVING BEETLE Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>MOSQUITO (larvae) Locomotion - Food -</p>		
 <p>WHIRLIGIG BEETLE Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>PREDACEOUS DIVING BEETLE (larvae) Locomotion - Food -</p>		

 <p>PLANARIA Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>CADDISFLY LARVA Locomotion - Food -</p>	<p>BOTTOM (BENTHIC) ORGANISMS</p>
 <p>GAMMARUS Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>MIDGE (larvae) Locomotion - Food -</p>	
 <p>DRAGONFLY (nymph) Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>HORSEFLY (pupa) Locomotion - Food -</p>	
 <p>MAYFLY (nymph) Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>HORSEFLY (larvae) Locomotion - Food -</p>	
 <p>STONEFLY (nymph) Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>LEECH Locomotion - Food -</p>	
 <p>CRANEFLY (larvae) Locomotion - Food -</p>	 <p>SNAIL Locomotion - Food -</p>	