

Wonderful Working Wetlands Classroom Program for Grades 3-5

Program Description: Swamps, marshes and bogs are dark, spooky places full of mosquitoes, mud, snakes and all sorts of creepy things. No one would want to visit or live there, or would they? Students meet living inhabitants of wetland ecosystems and gain an understanding of the adaptations that allow these organisms to survive in these watery environments. Students work in teams to discover the connections between animals and plants while playing a food web game.

Lesson: Discover the environmental importance and function of wetland ecosystems.

Conservation Message: Healthy ecosystems provide us many essential services and benefits.

Curriculum Objectives:

Tennessee students will apply the following **Science Curriculum Performance Indicators:**

- " The student will recognize that plants use sunlight, water and air for photosynthesis. identify the characteristics
- " The student will that enable a specific plant and/or animal to survive in its environment
- " The student will predict the effects of human actions and/or natural disasters on the environment.
- " The student will identify characteristics that enhance the survival of organisms in an environment.

Georgia students will apply the following **Science Performance Standards:**

- " Students will investigate the habitats of different organisms and the dependence of organisms on their habitat.
- " Students will describe the roles of organisms and the flow of energy within an ecosystem.
- " Students will use ideas of system, model, change and scale in exploring scientific and technological matters.

Alabama students will apply the following **Science Course of Study Content Standards:**

- " Determine habitat conditions that support plant growth and survival.
- " Describe the interdependence of plants and animals.
- " Describe the relationship of populations within a habitat to various communities and ecosystems.

Additionally, all students will apply the following **National Science Education Content Standards:**

- " Develop an understanding of organisms and environments.
- " Develop an understanding of diversity and adaptations of organisms.
- " Develop an understanding of characteristics of organisms.



Wonderful Working Wetlands

Activity Sheet

ACROSS

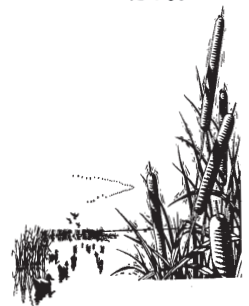
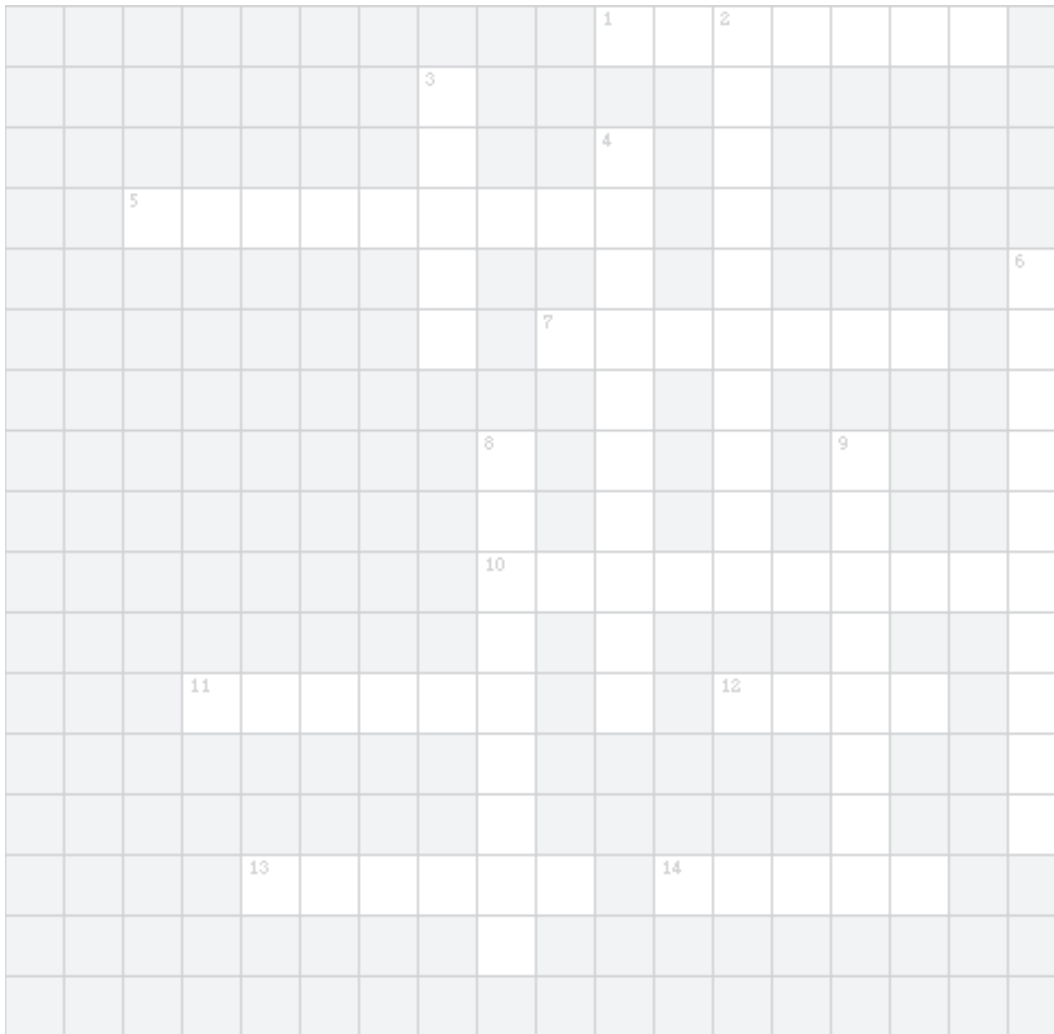
- 1) An area with specialized soil and plants; frequently flooded
- 5) Contamination of the air, water and soil
- 7) The environment in which an organism lives
- 10) Special air sacs in plants that transport oxygen
- 11) Area that protects inland habitats from flooding and storms
- 12) Wetland composed of peat and other acid-loving mosses, like sphagnum
- 13) Saturated with water; wet
- 14) A type of wetland with mostly trees and shrubs, near rivers or streams

DOWN

- 2) The intervening area between distinct environments
- 3) The basis of all life on Earth
- 4) Lifeforms that face extinction
- 6) An adjustment to environmental conditions
- 8) Lacking oxygen
- 9) A moss that decomposes to form peat

Word Bank

anaerobic	aerenchyma	buffer	swamp
habitat	hydric	water	adaptation
sphagnum	transition		pollution
wetland	endangered		bogs



Answers can be found on our Website at
http://www.tnaqua.org/KidsTeachers/Program_descriptions.asp



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Clue

Answer

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Swamp

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Endangered
Adaptation
Anaerobic
Sphagnum

