

# LET'S PROTECT OUR WETLANDS!





# EXPLORE THE WORLD OF WETLANDS!

**DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BEST WAY TO PRESERVE A WETLAND FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS IS TO SIMPLY LEAVE IT ALONE?**

## Life in a Wetland .....

Did you ever wonder who lives in a wetland? Here are 24 plants and animals commonly found in a wetland. Can you find them? You'll have to look hard since many of these species blend in with their environment. You can colour each species making them easier to find next time.

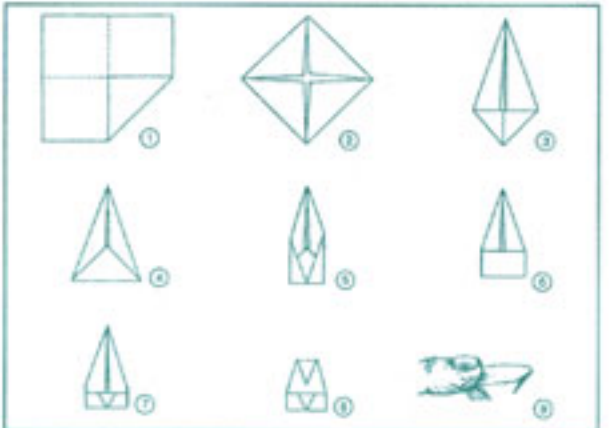
- |                      |                               |                          |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. belted kingfisher | 9. pumpkinseed                | 17. painted turtle       |
| 2. bullfrog          | 10. lady bug                  | 18. hooded merganser     |
| 3. cattail           | 11. wood duck                 | 19. red-winged blackbird |
| 4. marsh wren        | 12. blue gill                 | 20. mallard              |
| 5. leopard frog      | 13. yellow-spotted salamander | 21. least bittern        |
| 6. damsel fly        | 14. great blue heron          | 22. common yellowthroat  |
| 7. water lily        | 15. beaver                    | 23. eastern chipmunk     |
| 8. spotted turtle    | 16. chorus frog               | 24. white-tailed deer    |

**DID YOU KNOW THAT SNAPPING TURTLES CAN LIVE TO BE 90 YEARS OLD?**

## HELP MR. TOAD FIND HIS HOME



## BUILD A FROG



1. Fold the square of paper in half, then open it up and fold it in half the other way.
2. Fold all four corners into the centre so that their points meet.
3. Fold the top two adjoining sides into the centre.
4. Fold the bottom point upward.
5. Fold two bottom corners inward.
6. Fold the bottom upward.
7. Fold the bottom halfway down to make the frog's legs.
8. Bend the top point down.
9. Turn the frog over so that it stands on its feet. Press down on its back just above the hind legs and it will jump out from under your fingers.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT BEAVERS CAN CHEW THROUGH A 12 CM TREE IN 3 MINUTES?**

(Adapted with permission from The Urban Outback-Wetlands for Wildlife, 1995. Published by the Metro Toronto Zoo)

## So, what is a wetland?

Wetlands are a "transition" zone between deep water and dry land. They're soaked all year long and for parts of the year they're completely covered by shallow water. There are four basic types of wetlands - marshes, swamps, fens and bogs.

**MARSH:** If you see plants with stems above the water's surface and roots down below, you've probably discovered a marsh. But you will not see trees - it's too wet for them to take root.

**SWAMP:** A swamp is a wooded wetland. Trees take root because there is less water than a marsh. If you walk through a swamp, you will hear a squishing sound under your feet.

**FEN:** You will recognize a fen by the tangle of grasses, sedges, and willows stretched out over it. You will find fens in bays of lakes or basins where little water flows in and out.

**BOG:** A bog is covered by a carpet of moss, and only the hardiest of plants grow here. The water is filled with peat, so it's acidic. Fish can't survive in this type of environment.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT 24% OF THE WORLD'S WETLANDS ARE IN CANADA?**

## WETLAND WORD FIND

Find all the wetland words from the word list below.

C	E	M	A	T	I	N	O	S
B	D	N	A	L	T	E	W	W
S	O	O	D	U	C	K	S	A
A	R	G	O	R	F	T	V	M
Z	E	N	E	F	N	S	N	P
G	D	U	M	A	R	S	H	W
S	N	S	L	E	O	E	E	R
D	A	P	Y	L	I	L	E	Y
Q	M	L	I	A	T	T	A	C
B	A	S	S	E	A	R	P	H
X	L	V	E	W	G	U	L	S
H	A	B	I	T	A	T	E	I
Y	S	T	C	E	S	N	I	F

Word List			
BASS	FEN	INSECTS	SWAMP
BEETLE	FISH	LILY PAD	TURTLE
BOG	FOOD	MARSH	WATER
CATTAIL	FROG	PLANT	WETLAND
DUCKS	HABITAT	SLUG	

(Adapted with the permission of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Colouring Book "Homes for Fish")

## Why are Wetlands Important?

- They improve water quality
- Provide habitat for many plants and animals
- Help reduce flooding
- Are a vital source of oxygen
- Are a great place for recreation activities like bird watching and hiking

## ANSWERS

