



A Day in the Life

Introduction

In the book *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs*, author Anthony Fredericks introduces children to a variety of wetlands inhabitants. In this activity, students will get to know a little bit more about each of the animals.

Materials Needed

- ◆ *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs* - by Anthony Fredericks

Procedure

1. Invite each student in the class to select one of the animals illustrated in this book.
2. Encourage each child to conduct necessary research (i.e. library, internet) on his or her identified species.
3. Then, invite each student to write a series of diary entries as told from the perspective of their creature. For example, "A Day in the Life of a Frog" or "My life as a Dragonfly."
4. Discuss some of the following questions to help students get started:
 - ◆ Where does your animal sleep?
 - ◆ What does your animal eat and where would it find its food?
 - ◆ How does your animal protect itself from predators?

Key Concepts

- ◆ All organisms have different needs.
- ◆ The environment must supply the needs of the organisms.
- ◆ Environments are the space, conditions, and factors that affect an individual's and a population's ability to survive and their quality of life.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite students to create a guidebook to the flora and fauna found in a wetland area nearby. Encourage students to do the appropriate research (contacting experts, books, Internet, etc.) in assembling their data. Ask students to prepare the guidebook for young visitors to the wetlands area.
- ◆ Talk with students about some of the "Fascinating Facts" included in the "Field Notes" section of the book. Which ones did they find most amazing? Invite students to assemble their own collection of "Wetlands Fantastic Facts" based upon outside readings or research.

Additional Resources

Invite students to read the other books in this series. How are the books similar? How are they different?

- ◆ *Around One Cactus: Owls, Bats and Leaping Rats*
- ◆ *In One Tidepool: Crabs, Snails and Salty Tails*
- ◆ *On One Flower: Butterflies, Ticks and a Few More Icks*
- ◆ *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs*
- ◆ *Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs and Other Ughs*

