



Wetlands Collage

Introduction

In *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs* author Anthony Fredericks introduces students to the wetlands and the creatures that inhabit it. In this activity students create a collage from old magazines and discuss what other animals might be found in a wetlands environment.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Large piece of newsprint
- ◆ Scissors
- ◆ Glue or paste
- ◆ Old nature magazines

Procedure

1. Ask students to collect old nature magazines (such as *National Geographic*, *Ranger Rick*, *National Wildlife*) or to locate photos of wetlands creatures on the internet.
2. Invite students to make a class collage of a wetlands environment by pasting pictures of different critters on a large sheet of newsprint.
3. Make sure that there is an abundance of wetlands plants to support the ecosystem.
4. Discuss the following questions with the students:
 - ◆ Does each animal in the collage have enough space?
 - ◆ Is there enough food for each type of animal?
 - ◆ What would happen if you removed one of the plants or animals from the collage?
 - ◆ What would happen if the water source dried up?
 - ◆ What animals and plants should be added to round out the ecosystem collage?

Key Concepts

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

For standards correlation please see our website.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite the students to compare the illustrations in *Near One Cattail* with photographs in non-fiction books about wetlands. What similarities do they notice? What were some of the things the artist had to consider in drawing pictures for this book?
- ◆ Encourage students to write a fictitious letter to the girl in *Near One Cattail*. What would they like to say to her? What would they like to know about her adventures in the wetland ecosystem in this book? What else would they like to know about her?

Additional Resources

Invite students to investigate the differences between the following types of wetlands:

- ◆ Saltwater Marshes
- ◆ Freshwater Marshes
- ◆ Swamps
- ◆ Bogs
- ◆ Estuaries
- ◆ Prairie Potholes

