



# Creature Dominance

## Introduction

In *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs* author Anthony Fredericks introduces children to a variety of wetlands creatures. In this activity, students will discuss the different categories of animals and figure out which, if any, dominates the habitat.

## Materials Needed

- ◆ *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs* - by Anthony Fredericks
- ◆ Large roll of paper
- ◆ Markers

## Procedure

1. Invite students to create a large wall chart divided into several sections: Mammals, Birds, Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, and Insects.
2. Ask students to place each of the creatures featured in the book into its appropriate category on the chart.
3. Then ask students to select other animals that might be discovered in a wetlands environment and add them to the chart as well.
4. Plan time to discuss the various species found in a "typical" wetlands ecosystem.
5. Which species of classification seems to predominate?

## Key Concepts

- ◆ Systems have levels of organization.
- ◆ Feedback and equilibrium are associated with systems.
- ◆ Equilibrium is a physical state in which forces and changes occur in offsetting directions.

For standards correlation please see our website.

## Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite students to develop charts and graphs that record the number of species of each of the animals described in the book. Which species has the greatest number of members around the world? Which has the fewest number of members? Based on the numbers alone, which species has the greatest likelihood of being placed on an "endangered species" list?
- ◆ Discuss with students the similarities and/or differences between the community of animals in a wetlands environment and the community in which they live. Invite students to create an oversize Venn diagram which illustrates those comparisons.

## Additional Resources

Create an ecology club at your school! Here are some activity ideas the club could participate in:

- ◆ Start a school vegetable garden
- ◆ Create a nature trail
- ◆ Build birdhouses
- ◆ Begin a compost pile at school
- ◆ Plant trees on campus
- ◆ Build a wildlife habitat

