



Wetland Metaphors

Introduction

In the book *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs*, author Anthony Fredericks describes the wetlands as a “wild and oozy place to live for many critters.” In this activity, students will compare a wetlands habitat with items in their own homes.

Materials Needed

- ◆ *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs* - by Anthony Fredericks
- ◆ 3x5 index cards
- ◆ Various household items

Key Concepts

- ◆ Models can be used in explanations.
- ◆ Resources are things we get from the living and nonliving environment to meet the needs and wants of a population.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Read *Near One Cattail* in the classroom. Discuss with students the wetlands environment and how it supports so many different types of animals.
2. Invite students to collect objects from home that might serve as a metaphor for a wetlands environment.
3. For each object brought in, have students write a description of the metaphor on a 3x5 card.
4. Create a display in the classroom of each of the different objects and their descriptions.
5. Some suggestions for objects include:
 - ◆ Sponge - wetlands absorb the runoff from the streams and rivers.
 - ◆ Coffee filter - wetlands filter impurities out of the water.
 - ◆ Pillow - wetlands provide a resting place for migratory birds.
 - ◆ Photo of a Baby Crib - wetlands provide a sheltering place for many baby animals.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Talk with students about some of the “Fantastic 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.
- ◆ Invite students to create a list of adjectives using animals from the book. Encourage them to research other wetlands creatures and create an over-sized wall chart to be posted in the classroom.

Additional Resources

- ◆ **Ducks Unlimited**
www.ducks.org
- ◆ **Izaak Walton League of America**
www.iwla.org
- ◆ **National Wildlife Federation**
www.nwf.org
- ◆ **Wetlands International**
www.wetlands.org

