Building A Wetland

This is a fun and easy activity about wetlands. Be sure to take notes on what you observe during the activity. You can use this activity to teach others about how wetlands function and how important it is to protect them.

MATERIALS

shallow pan

• strip of indoor/outdoor carpet, 3 inches wide by the width of the pan

turkey baster

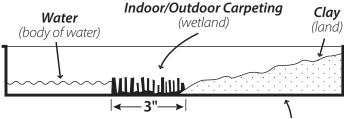
container of water mixed with sand

modeling clay

container of clear water

DIRECTIONS

- 1. Spread a sloping layer of clay in the pan to represent land. Leave the other half of the pan empty to represent a body of water.
- 2. Use the turkey baster to pour clear water over the clay. This represents rainfall. Observe the results. Then use the baster to drain the water from the pan back into a container.
- 3. Place the strip of carpet in the pan as shown in the illustration.
- 4. Repeat step 2. What was different? Record your results.
- 5. Remove strip of carpet from the pan.
- 6. This time, use the turkey baster to pour sandy water over the clay. This represents polluted water from soil erosion and stormwater. Observe the results. Then use the baster to drain the sandy water from the pan back into a container.
- 7. Place the strip of carpet in pan as shown in the illustration.
- 8. Repeat step 6. What was different? Record your results.



Lasagna Pan or Clear Plastic Sweater Box

SUMMARY

write a paragraph that describes what you learned about wetlands from this experiment.	