

Teacher's Guide

Video Podcast: Wetland Habitats

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Grade 4

This teacher's guide supports the SWFWMD video podcast episode *Wetland Habitats*, available at WaterMatters.org/Podcasts. This guide includes Florida standards, Common Core Standards, vocabulary, suggested activities and links to additional resources. For this lesson, students need access to audio recording devices.

Lesson Time: Approximately 1.5 hours (divided among class periods)

Objectives: Students will engage in collaborative discussion, conduct research and interview a classmate about saltwater and freshwater wetland habitats, species that live in wetlands and the importance of protecting wetlands.

Vocabulary:

Freshwater wetland: a wetland containing fresh water and located inland

Habitat: the natural home or environment for a plant or animal

Marsh: an area of shallow water covered with grasses and similar plants. Marshes may have salt or fresh water

Restoration: returning a natural habitat to its previous condition

Saltwater wetland: a wetland that contains salt water and is located along the coast

Wetlands: land that is wet all, or part, of the year and supports plants adapted to wet soil and water level changes

Lesson

Engage:

(15 minutes) Prior to watching the podcast, pose the following essential question to your students: Why is it important to protect wetlands?

Watch the podcast. Review the vocabulary terms and ask aloud the following questions to activate prior knowledge:

- What are two categories of wetlands?
- What plants and animals might you find in freshwater wetlands?
- What plants and animals might you find in saltwater wetlands?
- Why are wetlands important and how can we help protect them?

Explore/Explain:

(45 minutes) Assign students a wetland animal or plant species. Refer to the list provided on page 4 or visit WaterMatters.org to order your *free* [species posters](#) for ideas. Students will conduct research on the animal assigned and prepare to be interviewed by a classmate. Instruct students to answer the Student Questions provided. Encourage students to come up with their own questions and to write a script to follow during their interviews.

Student Questions:

1. What species are you?
2. Do you live in a saltwater or freshwater wetland?
3. What other animals and plants live with you in your environment?
4. Describe a typical day for your species in a healthy wetland environment.
5. Why is it important to you that your environment remains healthy?
6. What are two things people can do to help keep your environment healthy?

When preparations are complete, pair students up to interview each other using audio recording devices. Students could include sound effects, if possible, of a wetland habitat found online and at the *ClipVideo* link provided.

Another option instead of conducting interviews is for students to work in pairs to create a PowerPoint or podcast that includes audio and visual displays.

Extend:

(30 minutes) Ask students to share their interviews with the class.

Evaluate:

Confirm students understand the content by listening to their interviews.

Additional Links

WaterMatters.org/Publications

WaterMatters.org/Education/Splash

<http://etc.usf.edu/clippix/pictures/wetland-habitats/>

<http://etc.usf.edu/clipvideo/galleries/wetland-habitats/>

Standards

Next Generation Sunshine State Standards:

SC.4.E.6.3: Recognize that humans need resources found on Earth and that these are either renewable or nonrenewable.

SC.4.E.6.6: Identify resources available in Florida (water, phosphate, oil, limestone, silicon, wind, and solar energy).

SC.4.L.17.4: Recognize ways plants and animals, including humans, can impact the environment.

Common Core State Standards:

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.1](#) Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 4 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.2](#) Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.4](#) Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.4.5](#) Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.4](#) Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 4 topic or subject area*.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.7](#) Interpret information presented visually, orally, or

quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.2](#) Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.6](#) With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.7](#) Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.8](#) Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.W.4.9](#) Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Wetland Animal Options

Pickerelweed

White water lily

Raccoon

Snowy egret

Mottled duck

Common gallinule

Great blue heron

Bluegill

Softshell turtle

Leopard frog

Red-winged blackbird

Mosquito fish

Dragonfly

Snail

Gopher Tortoise

Snake

Alligator

Opossum

Deer

Anhinga

Giant water bug

Cypress tree