

## Wetland Wonders

**Grades:** K - 3

**Time:** 50 minutes

### **Rationale and Context:**

Living and non-living things contribute to the complexity and dynamic systems of a wetland habitat. Students will consider the value of a wetland habitat, its unique properties, the existence of unique animals and plants, and how scientists are working to protect these vital environments.

### **Teacher Background Information:**

Marshes, bogs and swamps (wetlands) are generally characterized by slow or still water bordered by forest, open water or meadows. Conditions exist in a wetland that allow absorption of floodwaters, improvement of water quality by gradual decomposition and filtering of pollutants, and nutrient-rich soil to support aquatic plants upon which a broad diversity of animals depend for reproduction, protection, food, nesting and development of young. The importance of the wetland habitat has become more widespread as a vital environment that can support water quality for all.

### **Vermont Standard(s):**

Vermont Standard	Grade Expectations	Inquiry Skills and Content
7.13	S.1, 2	Observe and question the role of a naturalist. Predict the functions of each part of the wetland habitat and the organisms that live there.
	S.30	Review the living and nonliving things that survive in a wetland.
	S:49	Explore specific habitats and their value to plants, animals and humans as a valuable resource that creates balance in nature.

Disciplinary Core Idea	K-2	3-5
ESS3.A	Living things need water, air, and resources from the land, and they live in places that have the things they need. Humans use natural resources for everything they do.	

ESS3.C	Things people do can affect the environment but they can make choices to reduce their impact.	Societal activities have had major effects on the land, ocean, and atmosphere, and even outer space. Societal activities can also help protect Earth's resources and environments.
LS1.B	Parents and offspring often engage in behaviors that help the offspring survive.	Reproduction is essential to every kind of organism. Organisms have unique and diverse life cycles.
LS2.B		Matter cycles between the air and soil and among organisms as they live and die.
LS4.D	A range of different organisms live in different places.	Populations of organisms live in a variety of habitats. Changes in those habitats affect the organisms living there.

**Learning/Behavioral Objective(s):**

- Discuss the importance of the tools and skills needed to be a naturalist (scientist that works in nature) and the names of the different kinds of habitats they study.
- Build a wetland model that includes both the living and nonliving elements
- Learn about the critical role that wetlands play in our ecosystem
- Determine which animals and plants live in a wetland and why
- Experience the sounds of a wetland at night