

DIGITAL DISCOVERY WORKSHOPS

Teacher Toolkit: Wetland Wonderers | Grades Pre K–2



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Get familiar with the program content.

Program Description

Join us on a virtual hike to learn how a wetland habitat provides food, water and shelter to the animals that call it home. Practice your nature observation skills by exploring live aquatic organisms from a wetland pond and discover what special adaptations these organisms have to survive in their environment.



Program Objectives

Participants will understand that animals need food, water and shelter to survive.

Participants will identify ways that a wetland habitat provides food, water and shelter to the animals that live there.

Participants will practice making scientific observations of the wetland habitat and of aquatic macroinvertebrates.

Participants will communicate ways that wetlands are important and how to care for them.

Program Key Words (English/Spanish)

Wetland/ el humedal

Aquatic macroinvertebrates/ los macroinvertebrados acuáticos

Habitat/ el habitat

Food/ la comida

Water/ el agua

Shelter/ el abrigo

Adaptation/ la adaptación



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Program Outline

Subject to change.

- Introduction of program and expectations.
- Introduce wetland.
- What does this wetland bird need to survive?
- Virtual hike to Mercer Slough Wetlands:
 - Look for signs of food, water and shelter in this habitat.
- Make observations together of live macroinvertebrates:
 - Practice identifying macroinvertebrates using key features.
 - Learn about adaptations macroinvertebrates use to survive.
- Discuss importance of wetlands.
- Program conclusion.

[View Supported NGSS](#)



BEFORE THE PROGRAM

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Use these prompts to lead an optional pre-program discussion and reflection in your class.

- Choose one of your favorite animals. What kind of habitat, or place, does that animal live in? Draw a picture of your animal in the place that it lives.
- What does your chosen animal need to survive in that habitat? Add those things to your drawing. What would happen if your animal were moved to a different habitat, such as a desert sand bar, a deep lake, or a tall tree top? Would it be able to survive as well?
- Choose a natural item to observe, such as a plant, tree, rock, animal or landscape. Practice using your five senses to observe that item for five minutes. What do you see? What can you hear? What do you smell? What does it feel like? What do you imagine it might taste like?



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DURING THE PROGRAM

Print the optional worksheet for your students to follow along with during the live presentation. The back of the worksheet includes additional prompts for after the program.

PRINTABLE WORKSHEET

- Wetland Wonders Printout: [Click to download](#), then print double sided.

AFTER THE PROGRAM

These optional extension resources can be used within the learning space, or shared with students to do at home with their families.

ACTIVITY GUIDES

- **Habitat Match** | **Coincidencia de Hábitat**: Explore different animal adaptations that may help them overcome challenges living in their environments with this mix and match hands-on activity. Activity time: 20–30 minutes.
- **Ecosystem Survey** | **Estudios del Ecosistema**: Conduct your own ecosystem survey at a park, yard, forest or beach near you to discover all the organisms that call a place home. Activity time: 30–60 minutes.



STEAM VIDEO

- **Enviro-math**: Follow along in this activity video to sort and graph water bugs from two imaginary wetlands. Can you discover which one is polluted using your ecology and math skills? Activity time: ~30 minutes.
- **Shape Walk**: Continue building your nature observation skills by going on a shape walk in search of patterns. Watch the five-minute video for a virtual shape walk, then set out on your own! (*Best for Prek–K*).
- **Meet Snapping Shrimp and Make Your Own**: Meet Biologist Kirstin Hultgren in this 5-minute video as she explains how a variety of different claws help snapping shrimp to survive. Then make your own snapping shrimp by printing and coloring the [printable page](#). Activity time: 20 to 30 minutes.



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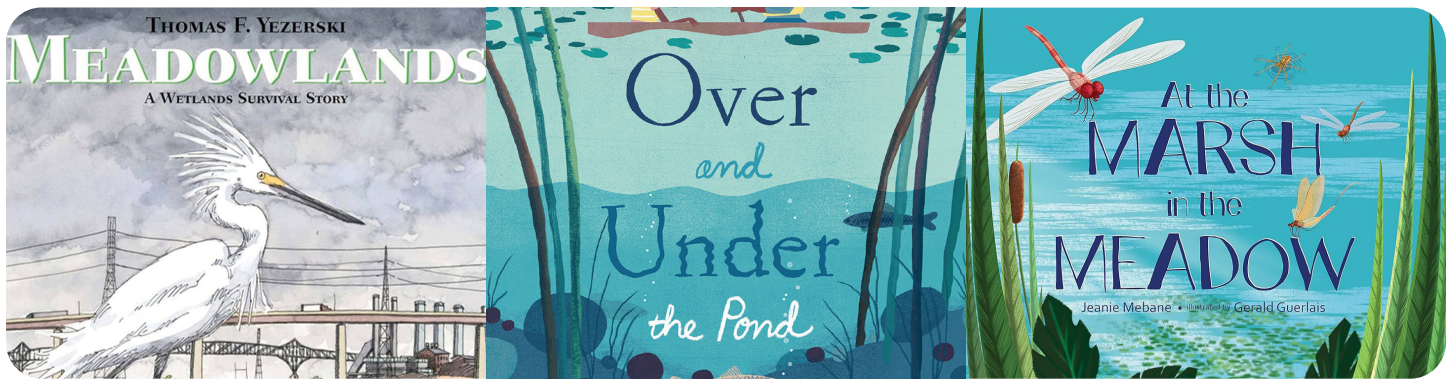
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AFTER THE PROGRAM CONTINUED

READING LIST

- Check out the [Wetland Wonderers reading list](#) for STEAM books related to the program themes.



For more activities with simple materials, check out the [Curiosity at Home / Curiosidad en Casa](#) web page. Explore activity sheets by age group and topic in both English and Spanish.



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