

Young Stewards of the Wetland

The Pond Community Curriculum Overview

Learning Outcomes — Students will be able to;

- Understand key concepts such as “aquatic”, “ecosystem”, and “food web”.
- Identify “who’s eating who” in a wetland ecosystem.
- Identify some aquatic plants and animals and their physical adaptations to wetlands.
- Recognize the ecological importance of wetlands.

Pre-Trip — Build vocabulary, establish key concepts, build anticipation.

- **Food pyramid game.** The wetland naturalist will deliver an in-class presentation using an interactive game to establish the concept of a “food web”. Students will help to arrange plants and animals into a “who’s eating who” food pyramid.
- **Word search exercise.** Students will identify wetland-related terms, to build vocabulary and concepts before the trip.
- **Fieldtrip expectations.** The naturalist will inform the students of what they’ll be doing on the trip, with tips regarding clothing and footwear. Good behaviour around wildlife and equipment will also be stressed.

Fieldtrip — Experiential learning; demonstrate vocabulary and concepts with direct experience.

- **Visit to local wetland.** Students will explore a wetland near their community, searching for aquatic insects and amphibians using dip nets and buckets.
- **Close observation.** Students will use magnifying glasses and a microscope to view the structure of plants and animals, from the visible to the microscopic.
- **Short hike and lunch.** A short walk around the wetland shoreline to view other wildlife and habitat, followed by a lunch outdoors (optional).

Post-Trip — Reinforce vocabulary and key concepts, students investigate further and present their knowledge to the class. These activities are teacher-driven, with support from the naturalist.

- **Animal Research Report.** Students can choose a wetland animal that they learned about on the fieldtrip, investigate the topic, and present it to class.
- **Artwork Project.** Students can use 3-dimensional models, drawing, painting, or collage to illustrate the wetland environment and some of the animals found there.
- **Stewardship activity.** Riparian planting, beaver guards on trees, garbage clean-up, nest box construction, fish counts.



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