



Wetlands

(from Environment Canada's publication *From the Mountains to the Sea: A Journey in Environmental Citizenship*)

Age: Grades 4-8

Lesson Plan One: Wetlands LIVE

Objective: To understand the value of our wetlands and how important these ecosystems are to sustaining animal and plant life and the wellness of the planet.

Background: When I was in middle school I was part of a live broadcast from a wetlands area that was viewed by students and teachers around the globe in an effort to bring attention to the importance of these ecosystems. It was an education for me as well.

Activity: Make a know, wonder and learn (K/W/L) chart about wetlands and then view the Wetlands LIVE broadcast at the following link:
http://wetlandslive.pwnet.org/program_info/webcast_may09.php

After the screening add to the wonder and want to learn portions of your KWL chart.

Wetlands are also known as fens, swamps, marshes or bogs – grassy areas periodically covered with shallow waters. They provide a home and breeding ground for many plants and animals that are unable to survive anywhere else in the world. However, many people see them only as breeding grounds for pesky mosquitoes and would like to see them drained or filled.

Wetlands are facing threats from many directions. They are being drained for the development of housing and industry and for valuable farmland. The wetlands also become contaminated by absorbing pollutants from sources such as industry, settlement and farmers' pesticides.

The wetlands are a habitat for many animals. A habitat is the scientific term for an animal's home. It provides all that the animal needs for survival - food, water, shelter and space. An animal's habitat is its neighbourhood.

Choose an Activity:

There probably is a saltwater or freshwater wetland near your community. Suppose it is being threatened by development. How would you organize a "save the wetland"



campaign? Think of useful people you could contact for advice and help. Design a T-shirt, poster, sign, button or slogan. How could you help clean up a littered wetland area?

The Canadian Wildlife Service of Environment Canada, along with other Canadian wildlife agencies, conservation groups and individuals are working to improve living conditions for endangered and threatened species of plants and animals. They are trying to protect habitats which are being disturbed or are disappearing. What are some of the actions you could take to help wildlife in your area?

Are there wetlands in your area which have disappeared? Ask older people in your community if they can remember a wetland which no longer exists. Find out about conservation schemes near you. Contact a group or agency in your area (Canadian Wildlife Service, fish and game clubs, nature organizations). Ask their leaders for advice on what you can do.

Challenge: Companies often use the great outdoors and wildlife to advertise their products even though there may be little connection between the product and nature.

- find examples of this kind of advertising in magazines
- is the ad related to the product?
- do you think there should be a connection?
- why is this picture used? Does it attract people – explain

Create your own advertisement.

1. Choose or design a product. Advertise your product to show how it is used
2. Create an advertisement using wildlife, but relate it to a product or service that actually has some connection with the environment
3. Design a product that is beneficial to the environment and advertise it to catch people's attention
4. Design an ad around a threatened plant or animal. Your ad should stress the importance of this animal to our way of life.

More info contact: info@enuffsaid.com