

Parent Outline: 3 – 5

Watery Worlds

- Welcome/ Introduction:** Staff/Volunteer Names
Today's Topic-Watery Worlds **Question: What is special about wetlands?**
- Icebreaker:** **Wetland Metaphors**-Give your name and what wetland quality your item represents.
- Animal Interview:** **River Otter**-Adaptations for life in and near water.
- Prepare to go to Wetland:** **What we will see/what to look for**-Layers in wetlands-plants/animals, birds, animals. Restroom Visit. **Trail Rules.** Hike to wetland ponds.
- Exploration:** **Wetland Ecosystem**-Definition of ecosystem, watershed, wetland & functions. Temp. & water clarity measurements; water quality-color, pH; pH meas.; oxygen test.
- Macro-Invertebrate Collection**-Layers of water habitats & habitat requirements. Observation of pre-collected organisms; NET COLLECTION
Many of a wetlands interesting plants & animals are smaller and found in the water.
- Wetland Plants**-Unique adaptations-emergent, submergent, & floating plants.
- Wetland Animals**-Review habitat, define diversity.
Look for tracks & animal signs-birds, reptiles, amphibians. Wetland food chain/web.
- Hike Back to Barn.
- Send Off:** Goodbye! **Take Home:** Outline
Next Time: Tallgrass Prairie Critter Book

Vocabulary: Wetland, macro-invertebrate, ecosystem, watershed, pH, emergent, submergent, species diversity

For Reference & Further Study:

- <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/pubs/wi.htm> ISU Press website
-Iowa Association of Naturalist booklet series: Biological Communities-IA Wetlands, IA Waterways, etc.
- www.iowater.net Volunteer water quality monitoring
- www.streamkeeper.org Adopt-A-Stream information
- www.iowadnr.com Information of protecting the environment, Wildlife Diversity Program
- <http://www.lamotte.com/projects> Site with info. about dissolved oxygen and other science project ideas