



SeaWorld/Busch Gardens Wetlands

4-8 Classroom Activities

Where are the Wetlands?

OBJECTIVE

The students will discover the location of local wetlands and the percentage of wetlands statewide.

ACTION

1. Gather information about wetlands: Check your yellow pages for local commercial dealers that sell United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps. Local dealers set their own map prices, so prices may vary.

Maps can be ordered through the mail by writing:

USGS Map Sales Box 25286 Denver, CO 80225 or

visiting the Web site at http://mapping.usgs.gov/esic/to_order.html

USGS home page is <http://www.usgs.gov/>

Students gather information about the values and functions of wetlands as well as options for their protection by dialing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Wetlands Protection Hotline at 1-800-832-7828. (This hotline is a toll-free telephone service that operates Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays, from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Eastern time.)

Or visit the Web page <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/>

Students can contact their nearest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office or their state department of natural resources for more information on wetlands in their state.

On the Internet, see USFWS page <http://wetlands.fws.gov/> or

EPA's page <http://www.epa.gov/OWOW/wetlands/vital/status.html>

2. Students determine the percentage of remaining wetlands in their state.
3. Students create graphs comparing the percentage of remaining wetlands in their state with Florida, Texas, California, and Ohio (statistics listed under BACKGROUND INFORMATION next page).
4. Students create a second graph to compare the acreage of individual wetland areas in their state or county.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

It's estimated that more than 50% of the wetlands in the continental United States have been irreversibly altered or destroyed. For example, only 20% to 30% of Florida's original wetlands remain, 2% to 5% of Texas', less than 2% of California's, and less than 2% of Ohio's.

DEEPER DEPTHS

After students discover the location of local wetlands, they can learn even more by visiting national wildlife refuges or nature centers near them.

MATERIALS

For each student:

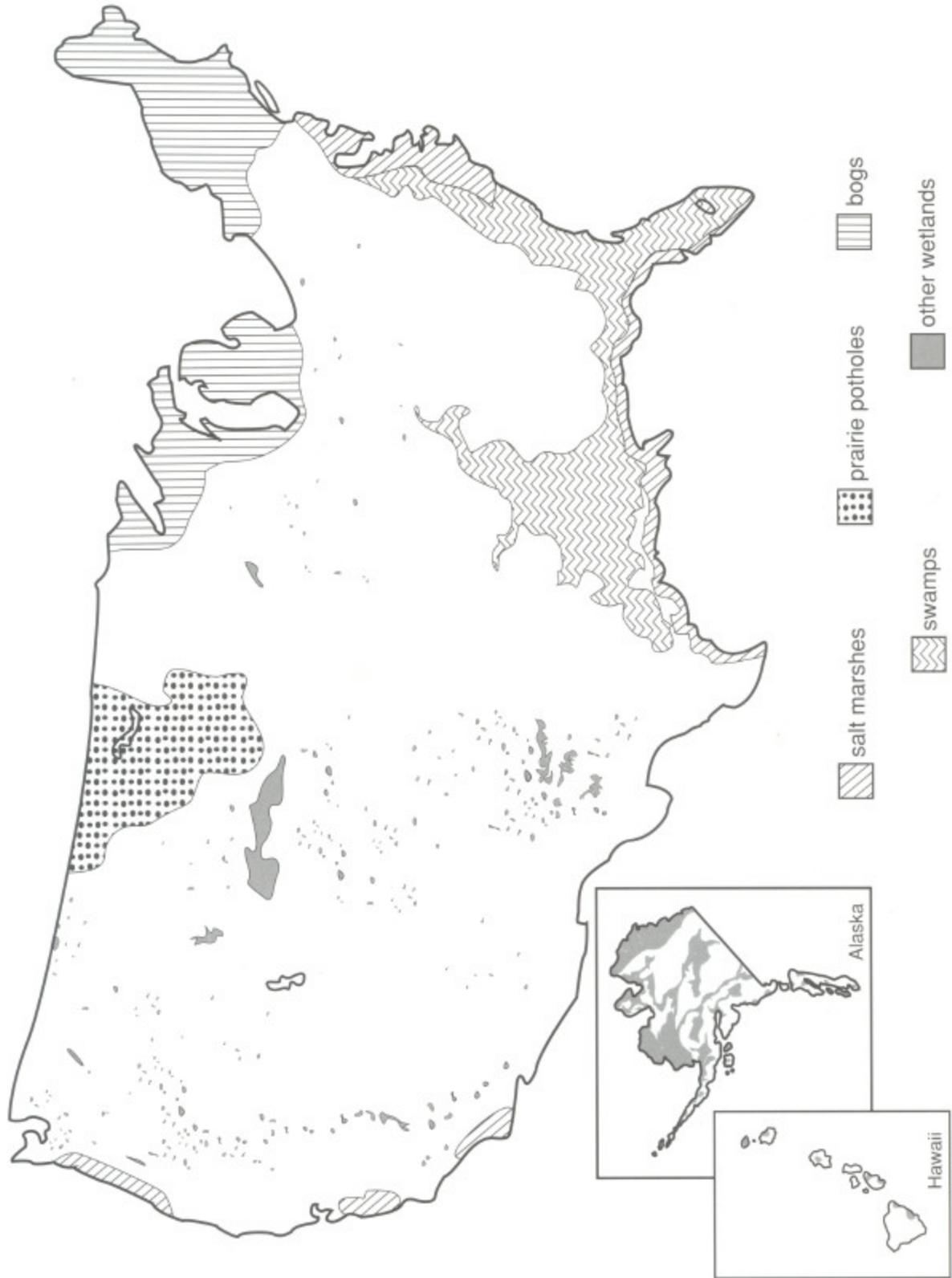
- United States Geological Survey (USGS) maps
- graph paper
- pencils
- calculator



Shorebirds like willits use their long beaks to catch snails and worms buried in the mud.

Name _____

Sample Wetlands Map of US



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