Walk through the Wetlands

OBJECTIVE

The student will become familiar with different types of wetlands and their inhabitants by matching pairs of pictures.

ACTION

1. Give each student two sets of cards. Identify the different animals and plants pictured, and explain that all these organisms live in wetlands of one type or another. Ask students if they have ever seen any of these animals or plants.

2. Students color and cut out the cards.

3. Students form pairs or groups of 3 to 4. The student whose deck is used in play is the dealer.

4. Each player is dealt three cards. The remaining cards are placed, face down, in a stack in the middle of the playing surface.

5. The student to the dealer’s right calls another student by name and asks if they have a particular card to match one in their hand ("Chris, do you have a marsh snail?"). That student must surrender the card if he/she has it. The player puts the two cards together and sets them aside. If the student asked doesn't have the card, he/she says "Walk through the wetlands," and the player must draw one card from the stack. If it's a match, he/she sets the pair aside and takes another turn. If the card drawn isn't a match, the player must add it to his/her hand, and the student to his/her right becomes the next player. The first player to empty his/her hand wins.

MATERIALS

For each student:
- two copies of pages 3-5
- crayons or markers scissors
DEEPER DEPTHS

Try one or more of these variations:

**Match My Neighbor:**
Players try to match animals with plants that live in the same habitat.

**Wetlands Concentration:**
1. Shuffle cards, then place them face down in rows of three.
2. Player turns over one card, then turns over another card.
3. If it's a match, the player keeps the pair. If no match is made, both cards are turned facedown again and the next player repeats the process.

**Picture Perfect:**
1. One player draws a card and tells her/his team if it's a plant or animal.
2. Player uses a whiteboard or piece of paper to draw pictures that her/his team guess the name of the plant or animals.
northern pitcher plant
_Sarracenia purpurea_
size: 20 to 60 cm (8-24 in.)
habitat: sphagnum bogs
distribution: Nova Scotia to Florida

sphagnum moss
_Sphagnum cymbifolium_
size: to 30 cm (1 ft.)
habitat: bogs
distribution: Canada to West Virginia

cattails
_Typha latifolia_
size: 90 to 270 cm (3-9 ft.)
habitat: freshwater marshes
distribution: Newfoundland to Alaska

bald cypress
_Toxodium distichum_
size: 30 to 37 m (100-200 ft.)
habitat: very wet areas, swamps
distribution: Delaware to Florida
American alligator
*Alligator mississippiensis*
size: 1.8 to 5.8 m (6-19 ft.)
habitat: fresh and brackish swamps
distribution: North Carolina to Texas

great blue heron
*Ardea herodias*
size: 99 to 132 cm (39-52 in.)
habitat: marshes, lakes, ponds
distribution: Alaska to the West Indies

wood frog
*Rana sylvatica*
size: 3.5 to 8.3 cm (1-3 in.)
habitat: swamps
distribution: North America

raccoon
*Procyon lotor*
size: 60 to 90 cm (23-37 in.)
habitat: swamps
distribution: southern Canada and most of the United States
common water strider
Gerris remigis
size: 12.7 to 16 mm (0.5-.63 in.)
habitat: water surface
distribution: North America

mosquito
Culex pipiens
size: 3.2 to 6.4 mm (0.13-0.25 in.)
habitat: swamps, lakes, ponds
distribution: North America

swift long-winged skimmer
Pachydiplax longipennis
size: 2.8 to 4.6 cm (1.1-1.8 in.)
habitat: ponds and streams
distribution: North America

marsh snail
Melampus bidentatus
size: 9.6 to 19 mm (0.38-0.75 in.)
habitat: salt marshes and mangroves
distribution: southern Canada to the West Indies