



## HABITAT: STREAMS AND FORESTS

# Exploring Freshwater Wetlands

### Introduction

This investigation pairs with the videos “Wooded Freshwater Wetlands” and “Exploring a Constructed Wetland” at [cbf.org/news-media/multimedia/video/cbf-education-videos/freshwater-wetlands.html](http://cbf.org/news-media/multimedia/video/cbf-education-videos/freshwater-wetlands.html)

Wetlands are low-lying areas covered by water some or all of the time. Today we are going to explore why freshwater wetlands are unique and important. Before we get started, write down three words you think of when you hear the word “wetlands”.

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As you explore wetlands today think about and try to answer these three investigative questions.

How do wetlands vary?	What are threats to wetlands?	How are wetlands beneficial?

Think about where you might find a wetland near you. Take a walk around your neighborhood and see if there are any. If you find one, stop, stand quietly, and watch. What did you see? What did you hear? If you don't have access to a wetland of your own, you can follow along with the CBF Freshwater Wetlands video. Write your observations and questions.

Observations and Questions

Look back at the words you wrote down. Do they have a positive, neutral, or negative connotation? What are three new words you think of now that you have learned a little more about wetlands?

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## Dive Deeper

**Be the Expert:** Imagine you have to explain to a younger sibling why wetlands are so important, how would you do it? Try to convince him that a wetland would be a really cool to visit and important to preserve. It could be a picture, a song, a story, a poster, or a poem. You decide what works best.

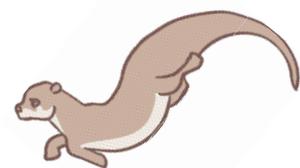
**Wetland Warrior:** Think of some of threats to wetlands. If you have a wetland nearby, determine what is the main threat facing that particular wetland. Brainstorm some ways that you could protect and preserve wetlands, then write an action plan.

<b>Project Topic:</b>
<b>Goal:</b> Identify a goal to address within a wetland based on your observations and/or research.
<b>Target Audience:</b> Who will your project benefit? How will your project make a difference?
<b>Process Journal:</b> How will you keep a record of your information and actions?

**Action Steps:** Fill out the following chart to help you plan how to protect and preserve a wetland.

What are the tasks to be completed?	Who needs to be contacted? Who will do them?	What resources are needed?	When do they need to be done?

**Curious Connections:** As you were watching the video, did you have questions of your own? Take some time to explore and research those topics that sparked your curiosity. Write down any questions or thoughts you had below.



# INVESTIGATION