Swamp Stomp

Where:  *Spicer Lake Nature Preserve*
50840 County Line Road
New Carlisle, IN 46552
Nature Center Phone at Bendix Woods:  574/654-3155

**Date of Program**

**Schedule:**

Meet park interpreters at Visitor Center for introduction to wetlands

Hike through swamp

Return to building. Divide group into boys/girls. One group goes to maintenance building, the other goes to the Wet Lab to change.

**Important Reminders:**

Students must wear long pants and closed shoes *(no sandals)*. We recommend that students wear a swimsuit under their old clothes. Old clothes are recommended since the mud may stain clothing. Boots are not recommended.

Students must bring a COMPLETE change of clothes to change into after the program. (Including a dry pair of shoes and underclothes.) Students should bring an old towel to dry off with and a garbage bag to take their wet clothes home in.

Please share this schedule and information with any other adults who will be attending this field trip.
Pre-Visit Activities
Swamp Stomp!

The activities included in your pre-visit packet have been designed to help you and your students prepare for your upcoming Swamp Stomp program at St. Joseph County Parks. The activities included in this packet have been designed to help your students understand and appreciate the importance of wetlands. By completing the enclosed activities prior to their visit, they will have a better understanding of the activities they will participate in at the park. If you do not have time to do the activities prior to your park visit, they will work as a post-review.

Note to Teachers: This portion of the pre-visit packet reviews the wetlands found in Indiana. Below is the Teacher Informational Section. A student worksheet Kinds of Wetlands page is provided.

### Types of Wetlands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Wetlands</th>
<th>Marsh</th>
<th>Swamp</th>
<th>Bog</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>along shores of rivers,</td>
<td>along rivers, streams</td>
<td>in northern climates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>streams, shallow ponds</td>
<td>and lakes</td>
<td>often in deep depressions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
<td>cattail</td>
<td>woody stemmed plants:</td>
<td>layers of peat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>arrowhead</td>
<td>trees and shrubs</td>
<td>evergreen trees,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>up to 7 feet of water</td>
<td>shallow water that</td>
<td>very deep, open water</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>may dry up during the</td>
<td>acidic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>summer months</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Swamp Phrases and Swamp History

In the past people said, marshes and swamps breathed out Malaria. Malaria means “bad air.”

The Seminole Indians of southern Florida escaped American soldiers by fleeing to the famous wetlands the Everglades.

During the Revolutionary War, the Swamp Fox hid in trees to ambush the orderly marching English troops.

Cowboys of the Old West sometimes ordered swamp seed for supper. You eat it too, but you call it rice!

Extra: Ask students to do an internet search about the times and people highlighted in Bold text.
Below are different kinds of Wetlands. Write down the location, types of plants and animals found and the amount of water found in each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Wetland</th>
<th>Marsh</th>
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<th>Bog</th>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinds of Animals</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other “Cool” Facts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Swamp Stomp Word Scramble  Name:__________________________

Unscramble the words below and write the correct spelling on the line.

1. Wetlands assist with controlling this problem.

_________________________________

lodfos

2. This kind of wetland has lots of cattails, reeds and grasses.

_________________________________

amrhs

3. Trees growing in standing water are what kind of wetland?

_________________________________

wamps

4. Decaying, organic matter is turned into this….

_________________________________

edtrtsu

5. In this closed system, water enters in the form of rain and peat may form a floating mat. Common plants found: pitcher plant and sundews.

_________________________________

gob

6. A great mixture of living things.

_________________________________

ibdovireisyt

7. The process where an ecosystem moves from one natural state to another.

_________________________________

usccseisno

8. Soil that does not drain well, retains water.

_________________________________

dyhier oils

9. Animals that do not have a spine or a backbone.

_________________________________

nievtrbeartse
1. Wetlands assist with controlling this problem.
   ________________________
   floods
   ________________________
   lodfós

2. This kind of wetland has lots of cattails, reeds and grasses.
   ________________________
   marsh
   ________________________
   amrhs

3. Trees growing in standing water are what kind of wetland?
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   ________________________
   wamps

4. Decaying, organic matter is turned into this….
   ________________________
   detritus
   ________________________
   edtrtisu

5. In this closed system, water enters in the form of rain and peat may form a floating mat. Common plants found: pitcher plant and sundews.
   ________________________
   bog
   ________________________
   gob

6. A great mixture of living things.
   ________________________
   biodiversity
   ________________________
   ibdovireisyt

7. The process where an ecosystem moves from one natural state to another.
   ________________________
   succession
   ________________________
   usccseisno

8. Soil that does not drain well, retains water.
   ________________________
   hydric soils
   ________________________
   dyhier oils

9. Animals that do not have a spine or a backbone.
   ________________________
   invertebrates
   ________________________
   nievtrbeartse
Swamp Stomp True and False
Test your skills about wetlands, swamps and bogs.
Circle True or False.

1. True/False  Most snakes that live in swamps are venomous.

2. True/False  The dam-building practices of mink have helped to create wetlands.

3. True/False  Parts of freshwater wetland plants have been made into flour for pancakes and stuffing for mattresses.

4. True/False  A man who fell into a bog and died about 2000 years ago was found in the 1950’s almost perfectly preserved.

5. True/False  People can build artificial swamps that can help filter pollution.

6. True/False  If it hadn’t been for glaciers, many of the bogs in North America would not be here today.

7. True/False  President Jimmy Carter gave an executive order to protect wetlands.

8. True/False  More than half of all our state’s wildlife depends on wetlands for food, shelter or nesting.

9. True/False  Wetlands may be dry for a period of the year.

10. True/False  The idea for today’s marshmallow treats came from a candy made from the wetland herb called “marsh-mellows.”
1. True/False  Most snakes that live in swamps are venomous.
   **False** The Massasauga Rattlesnake is the only venomous snake found in wetland habitats in Northern Indiana.

2. True/False  The dam-building practices of mink have helped to create wetlands.
   **False** Answer beaver. The beaver builds lodges along water ways and ditches.

3. True/False  Parts of freshwater wetland plants have been made into flour for pancakes and stuffing for mattresses.
   **True** All parts of the cattail plant can be used: shoots, roots and stalks.

4. True/False  A man who fell into a bog and died about 2000 years ago was found in the 1950’s almost perfectly preserved.
   **True** Bogs have very little decomposition of organic matter creating tannic acid which preserves bodies.

5. True/False  People can build artificial swamps that can help filter pollution.
   **True**

6. True/False  If it hadn’t been for glaciers, many of the bogs in North America would not be here today.
   **True** The name of the glacier which covered Indiana around 14 thousand years ago was the Wisconsin Glacier.

7. True/False  President Jimmy Carter gave an executive order to **protect wetlands**.
   **True** President Jimmy Carter was our 39th president.

8. True/False  More than half of all our state’s wildlife depends on wetlands for food, shelter or nesting.
   **True**

9. True/False  Wetlands may be dry for a period of the year.
   **True**

10. True/False  The idea for today’s marshmallow treats came from a candy made from the wetland herb called “marsh-mellow.”
    **True** Marsh-Mellow sap from the plant, marsh-mellow (*althea officinalis*), was used during the 1800’s to make marshmallow candy.
Swamplands are Cool!

Below are various animals, plants and kinds of wetlands. Test your skills and find all the words!

SAVE WETLANDS
SEDGES
SILKY DOGWOOD
SPICEBUSH
SPONGE
SWAMPS
TURTLES

BAT
BLUE HERON
BOG
BUTTON BUSH
CAT TAILS
DETRITUS
DRAGONFLY

FEN
FERTILIZER
FROGS
KETTLE LAKES
MARSH
MOSQUITOS
PITCHER PLANTS