

Wetland Habitat Lesson **Rock-a-bye Babies in a Wetland**

Grade Level – K-2

Overview

Students are familiar with human babies and the care they need to grow. This lesson will look at five wetland habitat animals and their babies. Students will study where their offspring are born and how they are cared for in the wetland habitat.

Connections to the Curriculum

Geography
Language
Science

Connections to Geography Standards

Standard 4 – “Physical and Human Characteristics of Places”
Standard 7 – “Physical Processes that shape the patterns of the earth’s surface”
Standard 18 - “How to apply geography to interpret the present and plan for the future”

Time

About one hour. Activities can be broken up into different segments.

Materials Required

- Computer with Internet Access
- Chalk or dry erase board, or large paper for making a chart
- Drawing paper
- Crayons or markers

Objectives

- Introduce students to wetland habitats
- Study five wetland habitat animals
- Investigate how the wetland habitat animals prepare for their babies
- Discover the different types of wetland habitat “nurseries”
- Analyze the reasons for the different types of “nurseries”

Geographic Skills

Asking Geographic Questions
Acquiring Geographic Information
Organizing Geographic Information
Analyzing Geographic Information
Answering Geographic Questions

Suggested Procedure

Opening

Go to <http://vathena.arc.nasa.gov/curric/land/wetland/wetdef.html> to learn facts about wetlands. Discuss with students the description of a wetland habitat. Show a picture of a typical wetland habitat while naming some of the characteristics. Tell students that they will be discovering how some of the animals in this habitat reproduce and provide shelter, food and water for their young.

Development

Use the site http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/StratfordLandingES/Ecology/mpages/organism_menu.htm to find facts about the following five wetland animals.

- Muskrat
- Great Blue Heron
- Yellow Perch
- Snapping Turtle
- Bull Frog
- Crayfish

Begin a discussion with the students describing the way each animal's need for shelter, food and water are provided in the wetland by reading the fact segments for each of the animals from the website. Make a chart listing the facts for each animal using a Wetland Animal Habitat Chart.

Example:

Wetland Animal Habitat Chart

<u>Animal</u>	<u>Shelter</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Description of Babies</u>
Muskrat			
Great Blue Heron			
Snapping Turtle			
Bull Frog			
Yellow Perch			
Crayfish			

Closing

Discuss with the students how each animal's needs are alike and how each animals needs are different. Ask the students if these animals could possibly live in other habitats such as deserts, artic, urban areas, grasslands. Ask them to tell why and why not.

Suggested Student Assessment

Assessment of student participation in class discussion can be evaluated. Students can draw one of the animals with its babies within the wetland habitat and display the drawings where students can discuss the animals with other students.

Extending the Lesson

Discuss with the students about how everyone can play a part in protecting the habitats for the animal babies. Go to the following website to find out “How to Adopt a Wetland” <http://www.epa.gov/region01/students/pdfs/wetch8.pdf>

Related Links

<http://www.epa.gov/region01/students/teacher/world.html>

<http://vathena.arc.nasa.gov/curric/land/wetland/wetdef.html>

http://www.fcps.k12.va.us/StratfordLandingES/Ecology/mpages/organism_menu.htm