

WELCOME TO THE COACHES INTRODUCTION TO WHAT WENT BY – WILD, WONDERFUL WETLANDS EDITION!

BEFORE WE BEGIN:

- WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO IS HERE TONIGHT. PLEASE DROP YOUR NAME, YOUR SCHOOL, AND YOUR FAVORITE WETLAND-ASSOCIATED ANIMAL IN THE CHAT! (IS ANYONE ELSE A PROUD MEMBER OF TEAM TOAD?)
- GO AHEAD AND MUTE YOUR MICROPHONE TO CUT DOWN ON BACKGROUND NOISE. (I AM EASILY DISTRACTED...)
- THERE WILL BE TIME AT THE END OF THE PRESENTATION FOR A Q&A. SUBMIT ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE VIA THE GOOGLE FORM IN THE CHAT.
- THIS PRESENTATION, INCLUDING THE Q&A, WILL BE POSTED ON THE WESO WEBSITE.

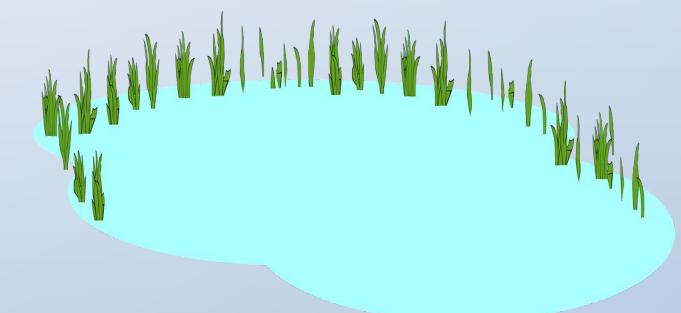


WHAT WENT BY WILD, WONDERFUL WETLANDS!

COACHES INTRODUCTION
WESO 2026

EVENT GOALS

- TO HAVE THE STUDENTS LEARN ENOUGH ABOUT WETLANDS TO WANT TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY
- TO DEVELOP A STRONGER APPRECIATION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD AROUND US
- TO LOOK AT THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF A SCIENTIST
- TO WANT TO CONTINUE LEARNING



EVENT DETAILS

GRADES: 2ND AND 3RD

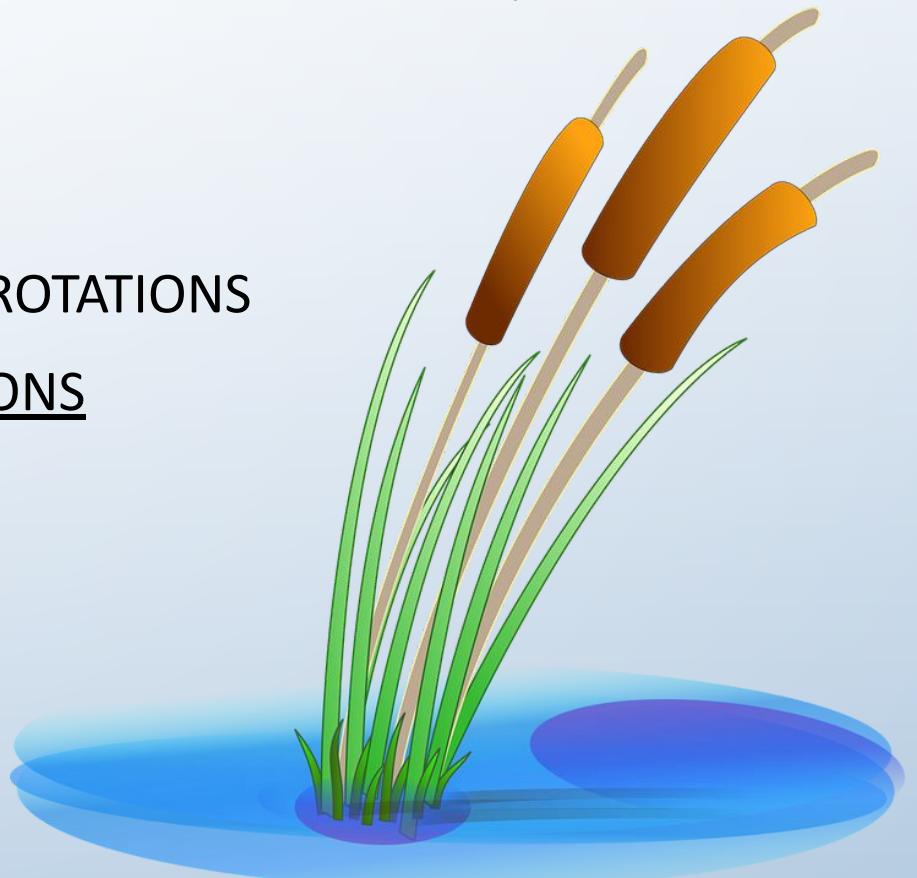
TEAMS: 1-2 STUDENTS/TEAM, ONE 2ND GRADE AND ONE 3RD GRADE TEAM/SCHOOL

DURATION: 35 MINUTES

FORMAT:

- ~5 MINUTES FOR INSTRUCTION AND STATION ROTATIONS
- ~27 MINUTES TO ROTATE AMONG THE 8 STATIONS
 - 3 MIN/STATION
 - ~3 MINUTES TO FINALIZE RESPONSES

OFF TO THE NEXT EVENT!





ACTIVITY SUMMARY

WETLANDS ARE IMPORTANT COMPONENTS OF ECOSYSTEMS.

THEY OFTEN AREN'T NOTICED, OR FULLY APPRECIATED, BY CASUAL PASSERS-BY.

THIS ACTIVITY WILL INVOLVE LEARNING ABOUT:

- TYPES OF WETLANDS IN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN
- FUNCTIONS AND BENEFITS OF WETLANDS
- PLANTS AND ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN OR UTILIZE WETLANDS



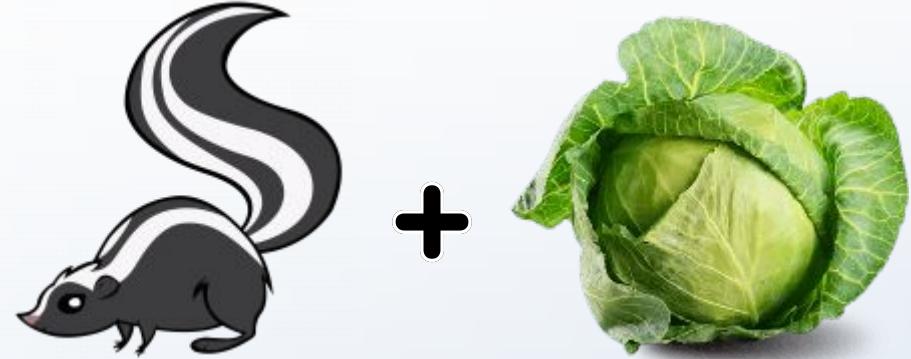
TEAMS WILL BE PROVIDED A "FIELD NOTEBOOK" FOR RECORDING THEIR ANSWERS TO THE SCENARIOS AND QUESTIONS PRESENTED AT EACH STATION.

FIELD NOTEBOOK

1 NOTEBOOK/TEAM

PAGES ARE PREPOPULATED:

- FIELDWORK SCENARIOS
- QUESTIONS RELATING TO WETLAND FEATURES, FUNCTIONS, AND PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE
 - SHORT ANSWER
 - MULTIPLE CHOICE
 - SELECT THE MOST CORRECT WORD/TERM
 - MATCH ELEMENTS FROM DIFFERENT COLUMNS
- 1 ILLUSTRATION STATION



SAMPLE PAGE FROM FIELD NOTEBOOK

Station 9 (5 points)

Study site description:

It is April 1st, 2026. The weather is mostly sunny, breezy, and warm (65° F). I visited site #5 in Washtenaw County today and set up my survey transects. Along the second transect, I saw vegetation I have never seen before - there were these strange plants that appeared to consist of edges and angles, and up close they looked pixelated! In the distance, I saw these strange, box-shaped sheep and pigs wandering around. When I saw what appeared to be a small, green child riding a chicken, I decided it was time to finish my fieldwork for the day and go home.

Before leaving, I collected some plant samples and will take them back to the lab for drying and identifying.

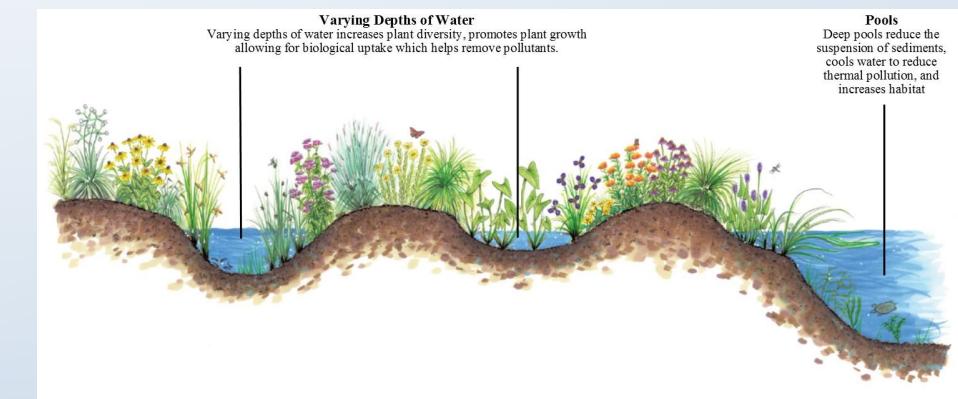
Can you identify these plants before we preserve them? Write their names below.



CONCEPTS TO UNDERSTAND

EACH TEAM SHOULD HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF WETLANDS, AND THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS FOUND IN THEM. MORE SPECIFICALLY:

- WETLANDS
 - WHAT MAKES A WETLAND A WETLAND?
 - MAIN TYPES OF WETLANDS (CLASSIFICATION TYPES – LISTED IN THE STUDY GUIDE)
 - WETLAND FUNCTIONS AND BENEFITS
- WETLAND PLANTS
 - TYPICAL SPECIES (LISTED IN THE STUDY GUIDE)
 - IDENTIFICATION THROUGH VISUAL CHARACTERISTICS
 - NATIVE OR INVASIVE
- WETLAND ANIMALS
 - TYPICAL SPECIES (LISTED IN THE STUDY GUIDE)
 - IDENTIFICATION THROUGH VISUAL CHARACTERISTICS, AUDITORY CLUES (BIRDS AND AMPHIBIANS ONLY), TRACKS (MAMMALS ONLY), HABITAT



SCORING

- HIGHEST SCORE WINS.
- POINTS ARE AWARDED FOR ACCURACY OF RESPONSES.
- CORRECT SPELLING IS NOT REQUIRED AS LONG AS WORDS ARE PHONETICALLY RECOGNIZABLE.
- FOR THE ILLUSTRATION STATION, INCLUDING THE REQUESTED FEATURES AND LABELS IN THE TEAM'S DRAWING WILL COUNT FOR MORE POINTS, WHILE DRAWING SKILL WILL CONTRIBUTE FEWER.
- TWO TIE-BREAKER QUESTIONS (2 POINTS EACH) WILL BE EMBEDDED IN THE STATION CONTENT AND WILL BE GRADED AND ADDED TO TOTAL SCORES ONLY IF THERE IS A TIE FOR 1ST, 2ND, OR 3RD PLACE.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY WESO

PRIOR TO THE EVENT, THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS WILL BE POSTED TO THE “WHAT WENT BY” EVENT PAGE:

- STUDY GUIDE
- LISTS OF WETLAND TYPES, PLANTS, AND ANIMALS COVERED
- VOCABULARY LIST

AT THE EVENT:

- FIELD NOTEBOOK CONTAINING TEST QUESTIONS
- PENCILS
- COLORED PENCILS
- LAPTOP WITH ANIMAL SOUNDS, HEADPHONES





QUESTIONS?

IF YOU HAVEN'T YET, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS USING THE GOOGLE FORM SHARED IN THE CHAT.

WE WILL ANSWER LIVE, IN ADDITION TO POSTING ALL QUESTIONS AND WRITTEN ANSWERS TO THE WEBSITE FOLLOWING THE MEETING.



QUESTIONS AFTER TONIGHT

WESO DISCORD SERVER

- EVERY WESO EVENT WILL HAVE ITS OWN CHANNEL
- JOIN THE WESO SERVER TO SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS TO THE EVENT CHAT
- EVENT SUPERVISORS AND/OR WESO BOARD MEMBERS WILL MONITOR THE DISCUSSION AND ANSWER QUESTIONS
- EVENT COACHES CAN USE THE CHAT TO EXCHANGE COACHING IDEAS
- GO TO WESOSCIENCE.ORG/EVENTS/ FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO JOIN THE WESO SERVER AND GUIDELINES FOR ITS USE

THANK YOU FOR SERVING AS A WESO COACH!

THE NEXT GENERATION OF WETLAND
ECOLOGISTS APPRECIATES THE TIME
YOU'VE PUT INTO SHARING THE SCIENCE
WITH THEM!

