

## **Wetland Environments** (pages 74–79)

### **Types of Wetlands** (page 75)

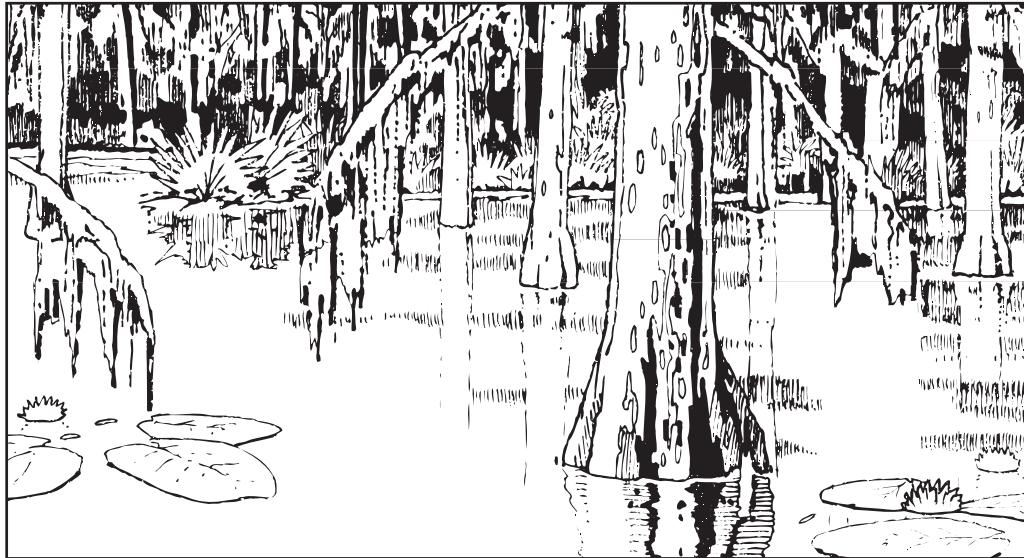
**Key Concept:** The three common types of freshwater wetlands are marshes, swamps, and bogs.

- A **wetland** is a land area that is covered with water during at least part of the year. Some wetlands are covered with water all year round.
- Marshes are grassy areas covered by shallow water or a stream. Cattails and other tall plants grow in marshes.
- Swamps look like flooded forests. Swamps have trees and shrubs growing in the water. Swamps are common in warm and wet climates.
- Bogs have acidic water. Mosses grow in bogs. Bogs are common in cooler areas.

*Answer the following questions. Use your textbook and the ideas above.*

1. A land area that is covered with shallow water during at least part of the year is a(an) \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about wetlands.
  - a. Bogs are common in warmer areas.
  - b. There is only one common type of freshwater wetland.
  - c. Some wetlands are covered with water all year round.

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3. The picture above shows one type of wetland. Circle the letter of the type of wetland shown in the picture.
- a. marsh
  - b. swamp
  - c. bog

**The Everglades: A Wetland** (pages 76–77)

**Key Concept:** Agriculture, development, and the introduction of new species are some human activities that threaten the Florida Everglades.

- The Everglades in southern Florida is a special region of wetlands. Everglades National Park covers part of the Everglades.
- In the Everglades, a wide, shallow stream of water flows over the land from Lake Okeechobee south to Florida Bay.
- Tall sawgrass grows in the water of the Everglades. Low-lying islands are scattered throughout the sawgrass marsh.

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- The Everglades provide habitats for many rare organisms. The Florida panther is a large cat that lives there. Many kinds of large birds live in the Everglades.
- Water that once flowed into the Everglades is now used for farming and in homes. Canals and other structures have changed the way water flows through the Everglades. Some areas are drying up. Other areas are flooded.
- People have brought new plants and animals into the Everglades that had not lived there before. The new organisms compete for food and space with the organisms that have long made the Everglades their home.

*Answer the following questions. Use your textbook and the ideas on page 49 and above.*

4. A large wetland region in southern Florida is called the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about the Everglades.
  - a. The Everglades provide habitats for many rare organisms.
  - b. Everglades National Park covers all of the Everglades.
  - c. Water that once flowed into the Everglades is now used for farming and in homes.
6. Is the following sentence true or false? People have brought new plants and animals into the Everglades that had not lived there before. \_\_\_\_\_

**Earth: The Water Planet** ▪ *Adapted Reading and Study***Importance of Wetlands** (pages 78–79)

**Key Concept:** Because of their sheltered waters and rich supply of nutrients, wetlands provide habitats for many living things.

- Many organisms find habitats in wetlands. These include frogs, snails, turtles, and reed plants. Many insects and birds live in and around wetlands.
- Some organisms live in wetlands year round. Other organisms, such as geese, spend only part of a year in a wetland.

*Answer the following question. Use your textbook and the ideas above.*

7. Circle the letter of each sentence that is true about the importance of wetlands.
- Many organisms find habitats in wetlands.
  - Wetlands have a rich supply of nutrients.
  - No organisms live year round in wetlands.

**Key Concept:** Wetlands act as natural water filters. They also help control floods by absorbing extra runoff from heavy rains.

- Water moves slowly through a wetland. As the water slowly moves, waste materials settle to the ground. Other waste materials are taken in by plants. In this way, wetlands filter water and make the water cleaner.
- Wetlands act like giant sponges. They store water until it naturally evaporates or drains away. In this way, wetlands help control floods.

*Answer the following question. Use your textbook and the ideas above.*

8. Is the following sentence true or false? Wetlands act as natural water filters. \_\_\_\_\_