

## GLOSSARY

**MARSH** = A swampy stretch of land.

**POND** = A small lake.

**GLACIERS** = A body of ice consisting mainly of recrystallized snow, flowing on a land surface.

**ALGAE** = One-celled plant living in a water environment, fresh or saltwater.

**SWAMP** = An area of wet or boggy land.

**BOG** = A small spongy marsh.

**QUAKING BOG** = A watery area covered by mats of moss and algae which move or quake when walked or jumped on.

**SALT MARSHES** - A swampy area of land along an ocean or sea often the home to oysters, clams and crabs.

**EVERGLADES** = A large swamp in Florida covering many thousands of square miles and means " Rivers of Grass".

**FOOD CHAIN** = An arrangement of the organisms of an ecological community according to the order of predation in which each uses the next usually lower member as a food source.

## QUIZ

1) A swampy stretch of land is called a/an:

- A) Glacier
- B) End moraine
- C) Marsh
- D) Dune

2) What type of wetland environment would you likely have near the ocean:

- A) Bog
- B) Salty Marsh
- C) Glacial Lakes
- D) Piedmont plateau

3) The famous Florida Everglades means:

- A) "Evergreen"
- B) "Rivers of Grass"
- C) " Alligator Crossing"
- D) " Fields of Dreams"

4) When glaciers melt they sometimes produce:

- A) Freshwater ponds
- B) Saltwater ponds
- C) Dunes
- D) Global warming

5) In wetlands you can in some places jump up and down on mats of moss which cover ponds. These are called:

- A) Marshes
- B) Exfoliated domes
- C) Swamps
- D) Quaking bogs

6) Along the edges of a shallow pond what type of plants are you likely to encounter?

- A) Algae
- B) Grasses
- C) Cat tails
- D) All the above

7) In the food chain what form of life is at the bottom:

- A) Algae one celled animals
- B) Birds
- C) Reptiles
- D) Mammals

## TEACHER'S ACTIVITIES:

- 1) Discuss where wetlands might be located in your community. Discuss marshes, swamps, wetlands and river drainage areas where water might accumulate.
- 2) Why are wetlands important?
- 3) If wetlands are close to your school take your class to observe the ecology. Note especially different species of birds and insects.
- 4) Discuss the concept of the "Food Chain". At the bottom of the chain are algae and single-celled animals. The algae and one-celled animals are eaten by larger animals such as insects which in turn are eaten by still larger and larger animals. In the wetlands this basic food chain has it's foundation. Many years ago the chemical pesticide , "DDT" was introduced to kill insects. Later it was found that birds, who consumed the insects, were also being poisoned. If man were to eat the birds, they too would be poisoned.
- 5) Using a map of the United States indicate where one might find fresh water or salt marshes ( coastlines, areas near the great lakes , etc.)

## QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1) C
- 2) B
- 3) B
- 4) A
- 5) D
- 6) D
- 7) A

## Physical Geography II Series

# WETLANDS, MARSHES AND SWAMPS

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### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program explores the watery world of the wetlands. The student will learn their origins, the plant and animal life within them, and why marshes are important to the food chain - and to us. This program brings the Florida Everglades into the classroom, leading students on a tour of the "River of Grass". The various types of wetlands, such as bogs and marshes, are discussed, as are the many natural habitats they provide. Your students will gain a new appreciation for drinking water when the wetlands role in filtering water pollution is revealed.

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## TEACHER / STUDENT GUIDE