

What Lives in a Wetland? *Teacher's Guide*

Students practice for the FCAT while learning about Florida wetlands.

Water Atlas Curriculum Lesson 30 – FCAT Supplement

Topic: Florida wetlands are varied and range from marshes that have water year-round to riverside swamps that flood almost yearly. Some low places that occasionally have standing water are important nursery grounds for amphibians because they lack predator fish that would eat eggs and young. Here, animals and plants must survive both dry and wet times. Some amphibians wait out the dry time buried in the mud.

The kind of soil and the plants that are present are both used to define a wetland. The soil may be wet year-round, as in a marsh, or wet only during the rainy season. Animals and plants living in wetlands must find solutions to living in these conditions. They will have adaptations for living in wetlands. Read the students' reading selection below for some examples of these adaptations.

Grade Level: Upper Elementary

Time Allotted: One instructional period

Performance Objectives

References are to the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards.

Students will read a selection adapted from the [Orange County Water Atlas](#), written in FCAT practice form.

Students will respond to FCAT-type questions or prompts in Reading, Writing, and Math.

Reading

- LA.4.1.7.3 The student will determine explicit ideas and information in grade-level text, including but not limited to main idea, relevant supporting details, implied message, inferences, chronological order of events, summarizing, and paraphrasing.
- LA.4.2.2 The student identifies, analyzes, and applies knowledge of the elements of a variety of non-fiction, informational, and expository texts to demonstrate an understanding of the information presented..
- LA.4.2.2.2 The student will use information from the text to answer questions related to explicitly stated main ideas or relevant details.

Writing

- LA.4.4.1.1 The student will write narratives based on real or imagined ideas, events, or observations that include characters, setting, plot, sensory details, a logical sequence of events, and a context to enable the reader to imagine the world of the event or experience.

Math

- MA.6.A.1 Solve real-world problems involving multiplication and division of fractions and decimals..

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- MA.5.A.2.2 Add and subtract fractions and decimals fluently and verify the reasonableness of results, including in problem situations.
- MA.6.S.6.1 Determine the measures of central tendency (mean, median, and mode) and variability (range) for a given set of data..

References

The following documents are available in the [Orange County Water Atlas Digital Library](#):

[Who lives in a wetland?](#) (activity page)

Source: [St. Johns River Water Management District](#).

[Protecting Florida's Wetlands](#) (fact sheet)

Source: [St. Johns River Water Management District](#).

Other references:

[Florida Wetlands](#) (website). Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida.