

Activity: Surveys and Slogans

Take a wetland survey and design a wetland stamp, poster, T-shirt, or bumper sticker.

Objectives:

*Describe several animals that depend on wetlands.
List an endangered species that lives in a wetland.*

Ages:

Intermediate

Materials:

- *Markers, crayons, or poster paints*
- *Copies of the questions provided in the activity*
- *Cardboard*
- *Scissors*
- *Glue*
- *Reference books*

Subjects:

Science and Art

Hundreds of species of plants and animals depend on wetlands for food, water, and shelter, and as a place to raise their young. By making posters, T-shirts, stamps, and/or bumper stickers your kids can let others know that wetlands are valuable wildlife habitats.

Before starting this activity, write the four questions below on a piece of paper, leaving space for answers between the questions. Make enough copies so that each person can get four copies of the survey.

WETLAND QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Is there a swamp, bog, freshwater marsh, salt marsh, or other type of wetland in or near your community? If so, describe it.
2. Can you list several reasons why wetlands are important?
3. Can you name several animals that depend on wetlands?
4. Can you name two famous wetlands in North America?



Pass out one copy of the survey to each person in the group and have the kids answer each question as best they can. To get them started, talk about the characteristics of a wetland (see the background information on pages X-X). Freshwater marshes and swamps, bogs, salt marshes, and mangrove swamps are all types of wetlands.

Afterward, collect the papers and explain that you will be discussing the answers later. Then pass out three more copies of the page to each person. Tell the kids that they should try to find three adults who are willing to fill out the survey. Give the children several days to get their surveys completed, then discuss the answers using the background information on pages X-X. Ask the group if most of the people that they surveyed were familiar with wetlands. Have them

describe some of the local wetlands that were mentioned on the surveys. Then ask them to list some of the better-known wetlands in North America. (For more about North American wetlands, see the "Put it on the Map!" on page XX.) Finally, talk about how wetlands are important to wildlife. List some of the animals that depend on wetlands, including endangered, threatened, and rare species.

can learn more about why wetlands are important. You can also hold a contest to see which designs and slogans are the favorites.



Now tell the group that each person is going to get a chance to tell others about the importance of wetlands by designing a wetland stamp, poster, T-shirt, or bumper sticker. Explain that their creations should include a catchy slogan, as well as a design or picture that symbolizes a way that wetlands are important to wildlife. (See the drawings for some examples of slogans and pictures.) Each person can focus on a specific type of wetland or come up with a general wetland theme. Give the kids research time to find out more about the plants and animals that live in the types of wetlands they chose.



Afterwards, display the finished wetland posters, T-shirts, stamps, and bumper stickers so that other people