

**Student Packet**

# Walk on the WET Side

(Grades 4 & 5)



Station 1: “Get Connected

Station 2: “Take a Dip!”

LOYALHANNA  
WATERSHED  
ASSOCIATION





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## Walk on the WET Side

### - Student Vocabulary -

**Algae** - simple chlorophyll-bearing plants, most of which live entirely submerged in water.

**Amphibian** - an animal that typically lives in an aquatic habitat breathing by gills as young, and primarily in a terrestrial habitat breathing by lungs and through moist skin as an adult.

**Carnivore** - an animal that eats other animals.

**Community** - the organisms inhabiting a common environment and interacting with each other.

**Consumer** - living organisms above the Producer levels in a food chain. Both herbivore and carnivore on their respective links on the food chain. In short, consumers are every organism that eats something else.

**Decay** - general breakdown of organic materials involving microorganisms.

**Decomposer** - bottom level consumers that break down the substance of dead organisms. These are mainly bacteria and fungi that convert dead matter into gases to be released back into the air, soil or water.

**Dissolved oxygen** - the amount of oxygen than can be taken from the water by aquatic organisms.

**Ecology** - the study of the relations of living and nonliving organisms to their environment.

**Ecosystem** - all organisms in a community plus the associated environmental factors with which they interact.

**Food chain** - a sequence of organisms, including producers, herbivores, and carnivores, through which energy and materials move within an ecosystem.

**Habitat** - the place normally occupied by a particular type of organism.

**Herbivore** - an organism that eats plants and other photosynthetic organisms.

**Invertebrate** - an animal without a backbone.

**Omnivore** - organisms that eat everything - both plants and animals.

**Organisms** - term applied to any living creature.

**Photosynthesis** - manufacture of a simple carbohydrate and oxygen from carbon dioxide and water in the presence of chlorophyll with light as a source of energy.

**Plankton** - free-floating microscopic organisms.

**Pollution** - any substance that destroys the purity of land, air or water.

**Predator** - an animal that hunts and kills other animals for food.

**Producer** - They make up the bulk of the food chain and include all green plants. Producers are able to harness the energy of the sun to make food. They provide the basic layer for all levels in a food chain.

**Species** - the subdivision of a genus.

**Watershed** - a region of land draining into a river, river system or body of water.

**Wetlands** - any land area that tends to be regularly wet or flooded for at least part of the year.

**Zooplankton** - plankton that is composed of tiny animals and animal matter.

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## Station 1: “Get Connected”



Get ready to become a wetlands investigator!

Venturing into a wetland is an experience of great surprises! You will quickly become “Sherlock Holmes” in your search for wetland inhabitants, as wetlands are filled with a great diversity of plants and animals.

Wetlands form at the areas where water and land meet and they make up a very unique ecosystem between what commonly lives in water and what lives on land. Wetlands are home to many different species of plants and animals and are important to a healthy watershed, as they filter out pollution and help in water collection.

In recent years, much attention has been given to the preservation of wetlands because many of them are being destroyed to make way for human habitation or other development.

Wetlands are filled with many connections – which is why protecting wetlands is important. If one part of a wetland is eliminated or damaged, another part may be affected also.

In this activity, you are going to become a part of the wetland community here at Idlewild and investigate how you are important to other parts of the wetland ecosystem.

## Station 1: "Get Connected"



1. What card did you select from the "Wetland Mystery Box?"
2. Is your item a Producer, Consumer, Decomposer? Briefly explain with help from the vocabulary section of this packet.
3. Describe your item. See how many of the enclosed vocabulary words you can use to correctly describe your wetland item.
4. Was your wetland item easy or hard to locate? How did you find your item?
5. Briefly describe the area/location where you found your item:
6. Why is your item important to the wetland community?
7. Briefly explain what might happen if your item was eliminated from the wetland community.

# Walk on the WET Side

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## Station 2: Take a Dip!



A pond is home to many different kinds of plants, animals and insects, some too small to see without a microscope. A pond is different from a wetland because water is present in a pond all year long and supports life that permanently lives and reproduces in the water. The sun can warm up the pond top to bottom, so roots and plants can grow. Items on the surface like lily pads make shade to keep the water cooler for some animals. A pond is a good place to find many living animals. You can find insects or plants in or out of the pond or around the pond in large groups. Birds and other animals visit the pond for rest and food. Millions of microscopic organisms live in the pond supplying food for the larger animals. Every plant or animal, alive or not, is food for some hungry creature. Smaller animals or plants are eaten by the next larger animal or mammal in the pond.

At this station, you are going to investigate the life in a pond by doing a scavenger hunt and see if you can make a food chain by what you find.

Pond Scavenger Hunt

# Food Chain Observation Sheet



Pond Item:  
Look for the items listed below

Description:  
Briefly describe or draw the item found

Order:  
Numerically list items  
found in food chain order

- |                          |       |       |
|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| 1. A Floating Plant      | _____ | _____ |
| 2. A Water Bird          | _____ | _____ |
| 3. An Insect That Floats | _____ | _____ |
| 4. An Animal Track       | _____ | _____ |
| 5. A Singing Bird        | _____ | _____ |
| 6. A Plant with Seeds    | _____ | _____ |
| 7. An Amphibian          | _____ | _____ |
| 8. A Fish's Food         | _____ | _____ |
| 9. A Flying Insect       | _____ | _____ |
| 10. An Animal's Home     | _____ | _____ |

Just for Fun ~ "Word Search"



ALGAE  
COMMUNITY  
DECOMPOSER  
FOODCHAIN  
INVERTEBRATE  
PHTOTSYNTHESIS  
PREDATOR  
WATERSHED

AMPHIBIAN  
CONSUMER  
ECOLOGY  
HABITAT  
OMNIVORE  
PLANKTON  
PRODUCER  
WETLANDS

CARNIVORE  
DECAY  
ECOSYSTEM  
HERBIVORE  
ORGANISMS  
POLLUTION  
SPECIES  
ZOOPLANKTON