

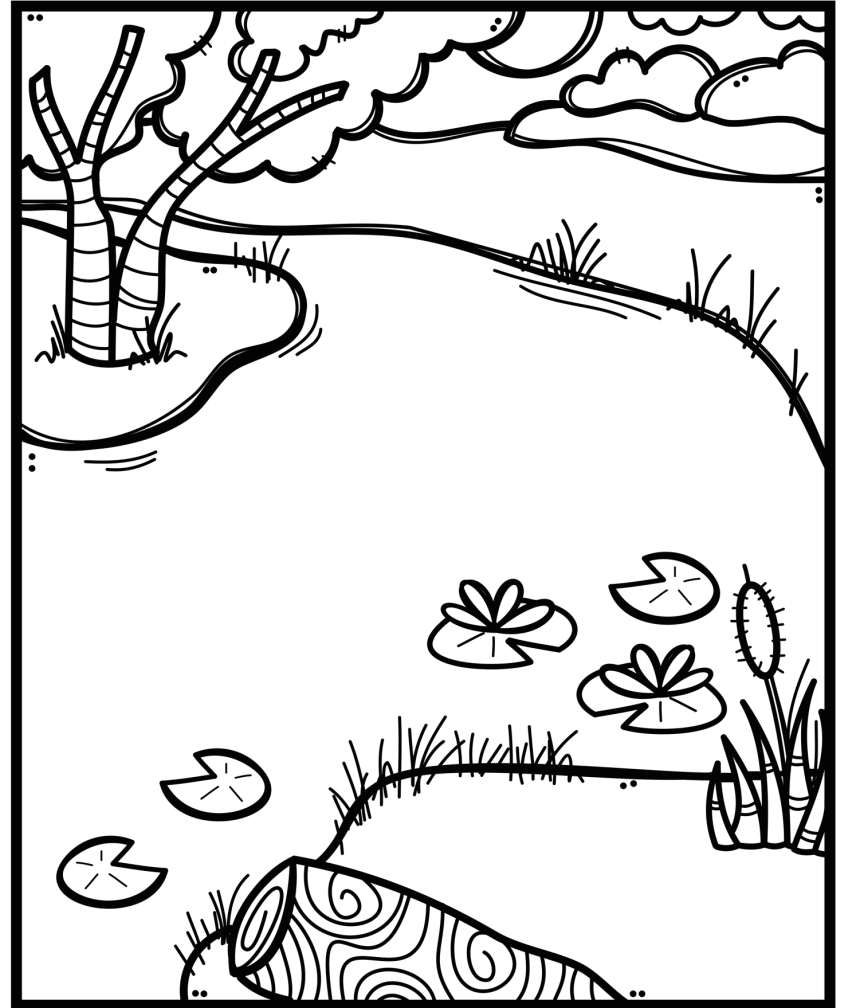
Animal Habitats

Wetlands



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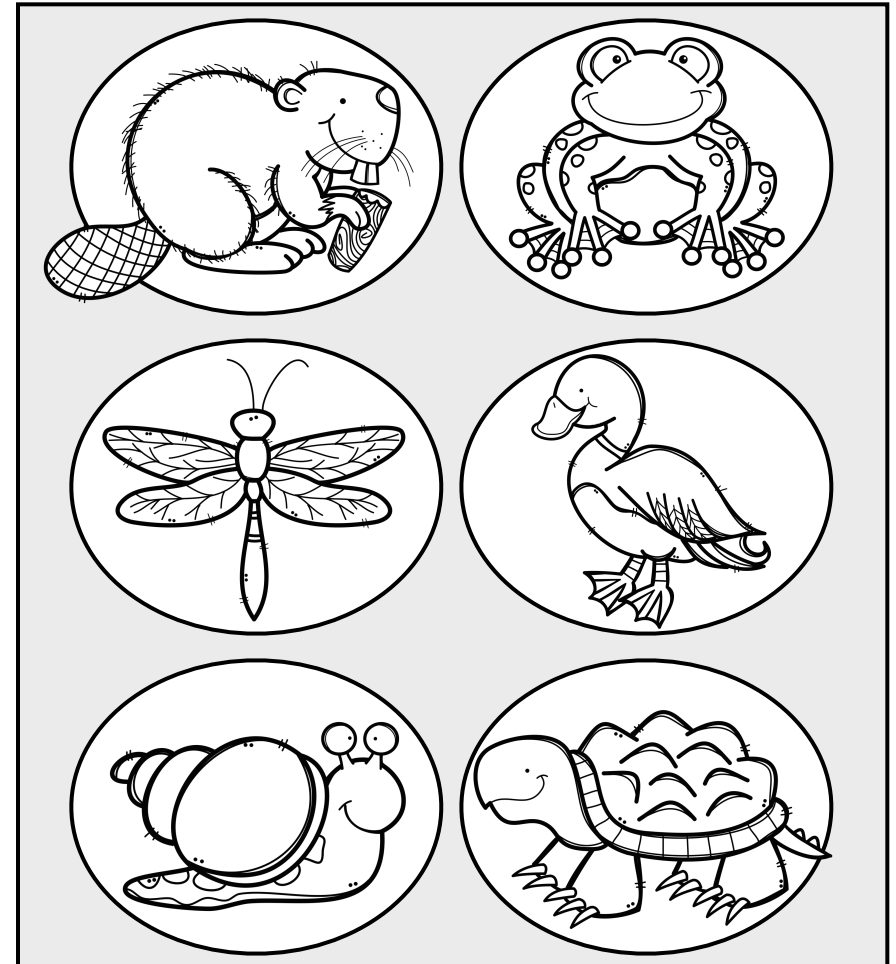
This Flap Book Belongs To:



Wetlands are areas of land where water covers or soaks the soil for all, or most, of the year. Many plants grow in wetlands, providing food and shelter for the animals that live there.

TYPE	MARSH	SWAMP	BOG
DEFINITION	Marshes are areas with shallow water that are mostly grasslands. They can be freshwater or saltwater. The amount of water can change with the seasons or the tides.	Swamps are slow moving streams, rivers, or low areas with deeper and more open water than a marsh. The Florida Everglades are an example of a large swamp.	A bog is a fresh water wetland, found in cooler northern climates. They usually form in old glacial lakes. Most of the water in a bog comes from rainfall.
PLANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cattails • grasses • reeds • soft shrubs • wildflowers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cypress trees • lily pads • mangrove trees • papyrus • woody shrubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • evergreen trees • shrubs • moss • carnivorous plants
ANIMALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alligators • beavers • crayfish • newts • turtles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • alligators • birds • bobcats • insects • otters • snakes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • birds • deer • dragonflies

There are different types of wetlands, such as marshes, swamps, and bogs. Each wetland is unique. The table on this page lists some features of each type of wetland.



Many animals, large and small, make their homes in wetlands, including beavers, bullfrogs, dragonflies, ducks, snails, and turtles. Let's read to learn more about other wetland animals.

Put glue here.

Alligators are reptiles and have been living on Earth for millions of years. They are carnivores, eating mainly fish, mollusks, birds, small mammals, and other reptiles. Alligators use their strong tails to move quickly through the water, but they are slower when moving on land. There are more than one million alligators living in the state of Florida!

An
alligator
lives in a wetland.

Put glue here.

Blue herons are tall birds with long legs. They are the largest and most common heron in the United States. Blue herons are waders and expert fishers. They walk slowly through marshes, or stand still for a long time, looking for small fish to eat. When a blue heron sees a fish, it strikes quickly with its sharp beak and swallows the fish whole.

A
blue heron
lives in a wetland, too.

Put glue here.

Crayfish, which look like small lobsters, are crustaceans that live in wetlands that do not freeze over during winter. The exoskeletons of crayfish can be different colors, such as yellow, tan, gray, pink, red, or dark brown. As they grow, crayfish shed their old exoskeletons, which they sometimes eat because they're full of calcium.

A

crayfish

lives in a wetland.

Put glue here.

You can find many different types of snakes in a swamp such as king snakes, coral snakes, copperheads, grass snakes, and rattlesnakes. But one of the most common snakes is the water moccasin. This snake, also known as a cottonmouth, is a venomous snake. It can bite its prey and return to a coil in half a second!

A

snake

can live there, too.

Put glue here.

Otters love to eat shelled animals like clams, but they aren't strong enough to open the shell without help. Otters often use tools, like rocks, to crack into their dinner. While they hunt for food under water, they keep a rock under their arms for later use. And did you know otters are playful? They often build their own slides using rocks and mud.

An
otter
can live in a wetland.

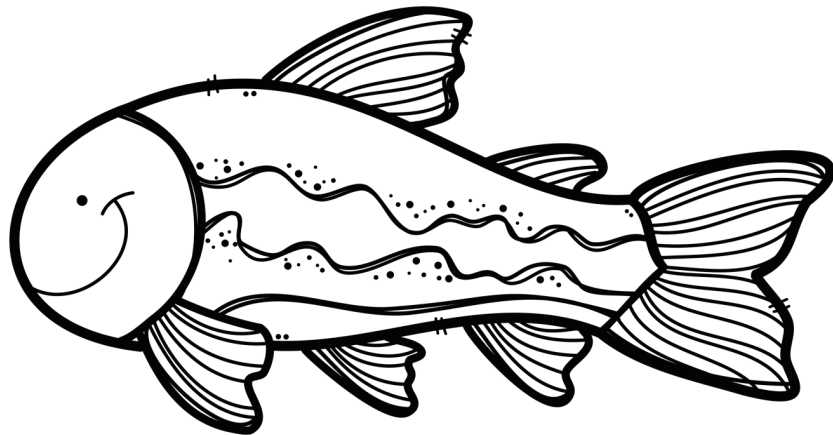
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Although some fish live in wetlands, many fish from the ocean swim into swamps to spawn, or lay their eggs. When the eggs hatch, the babies find plenty of food and some safety in the tall grasses. Some young fish even live in the wetland until they are strong enough to survive life in the ocean.

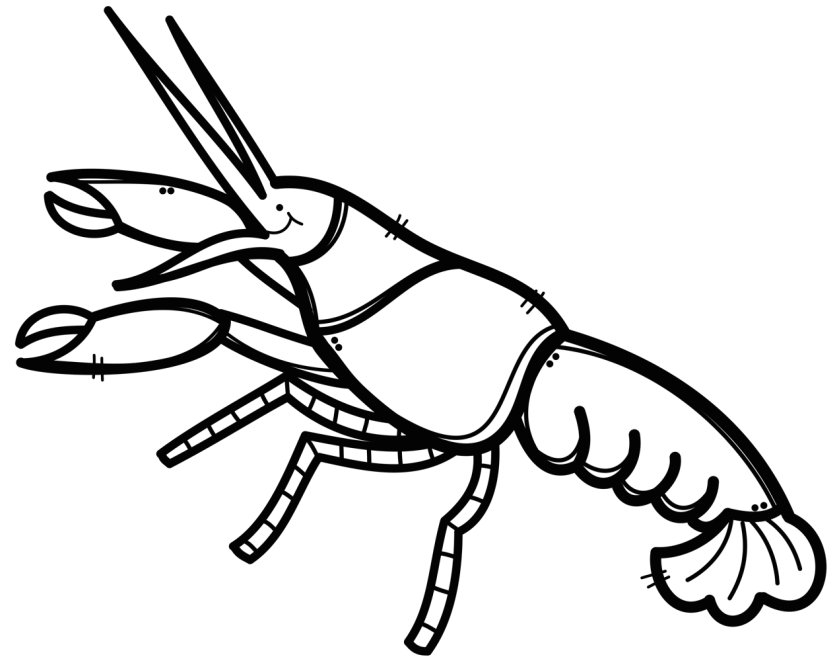
And a
fish
can live there, too.

Fun Fact Flaps

Directions: Color each animal and cut out the flaps. Fold each flap on the line above the animal. (This will help your flap lift up on the page.) Match each flap to the correct page in the book and glue it to the page. Be careful... these flaps are not in order. Reread your book.

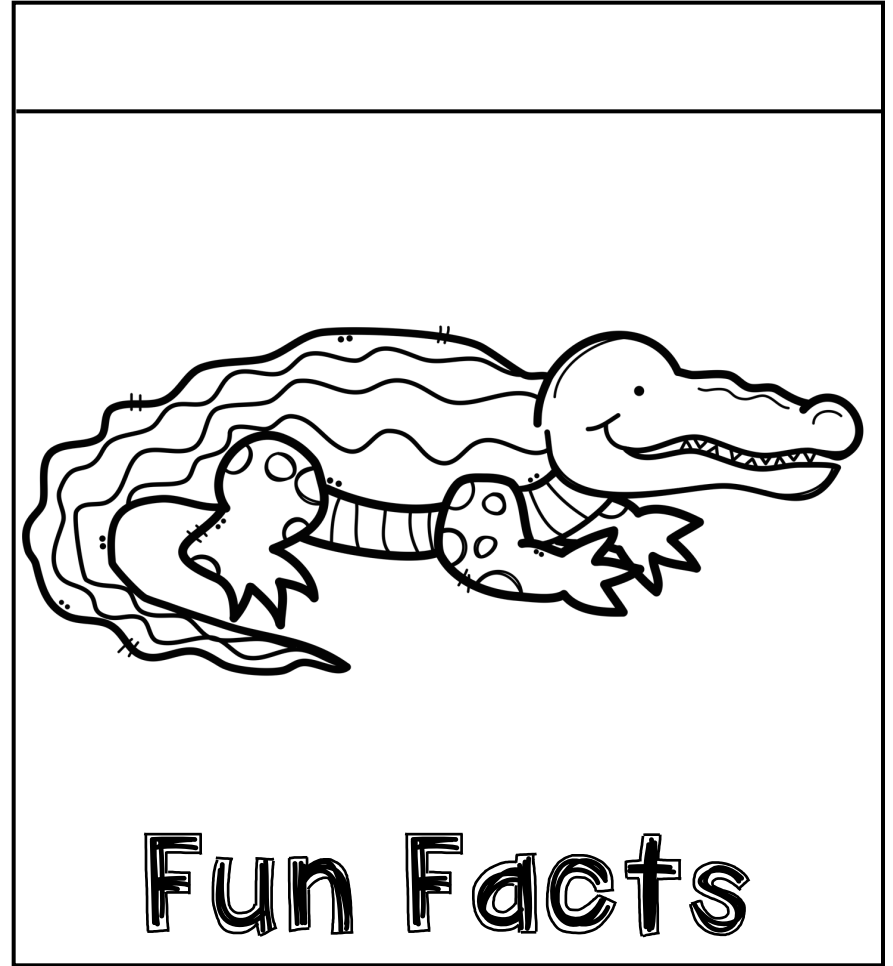
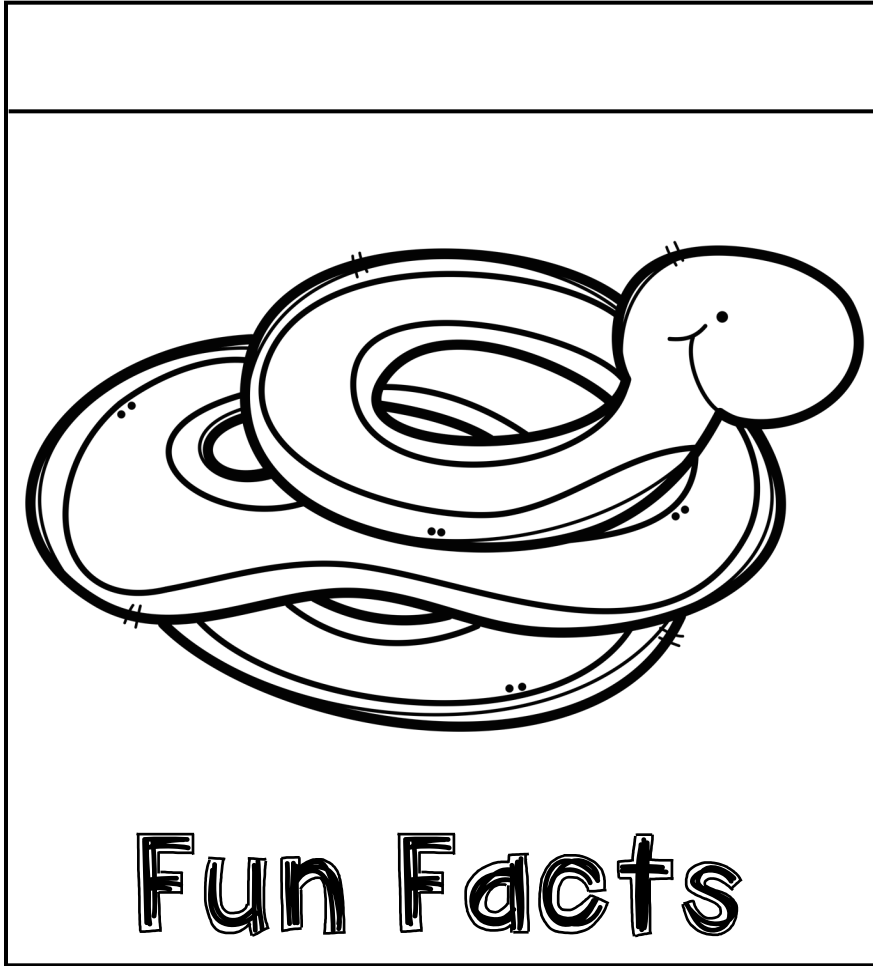


Fun Facts

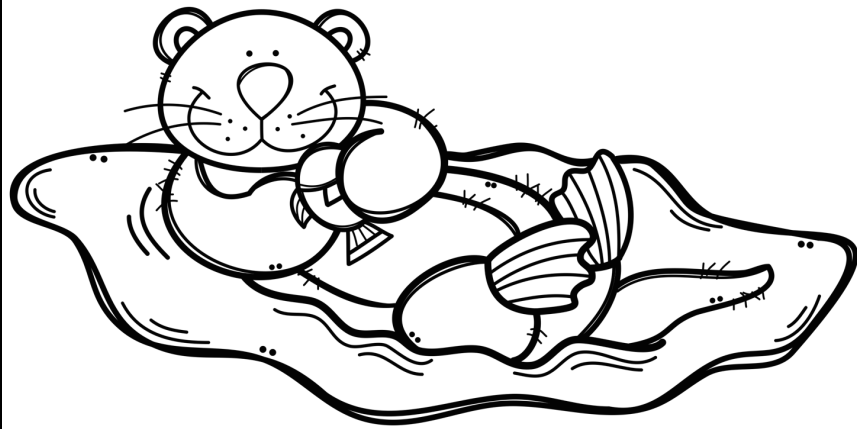


Fun Facts

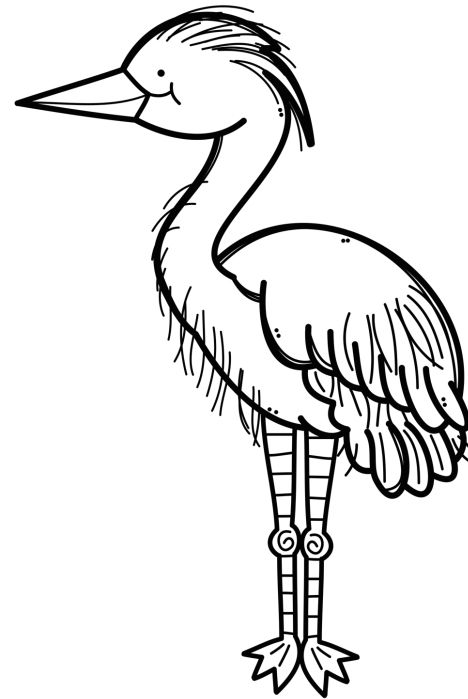
More Flaps!



More Flaps!



Fun Facts



Fun Facts

Name: _____

Read, Think, Write

What is a wetland? Use information from the text to describe this habitat.

Name three types of wetlands listed in this text.

Where does most of the water in a bog come from?

List one way marshes and swamps are similar.



Explain why you think the author of this text calls blue herons expert fishers.

Infer: Why do you think so many alligators live in the state of Florida?

What does spawn mean?

What specific example does the author share to show that otters are playful?



Compare and Contrast

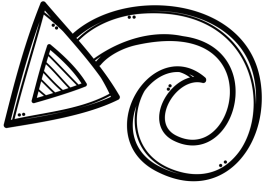
Use the table on page 2 to list similarities and differences between these two wetlands.

Marsh

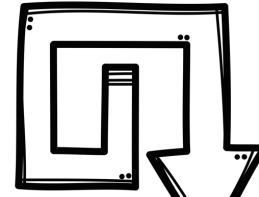
Swamp

Both





Key Words



Match each key word from the text with the correct meaning. One has been done for you.

carnivore

a home, or a place to stay safe from danger

spawn

an outside covering for the body of certain animals

shelter

full of venom or poison

venomous

any animal or plant that feeds on meat

exoskeleton

dirt

coil

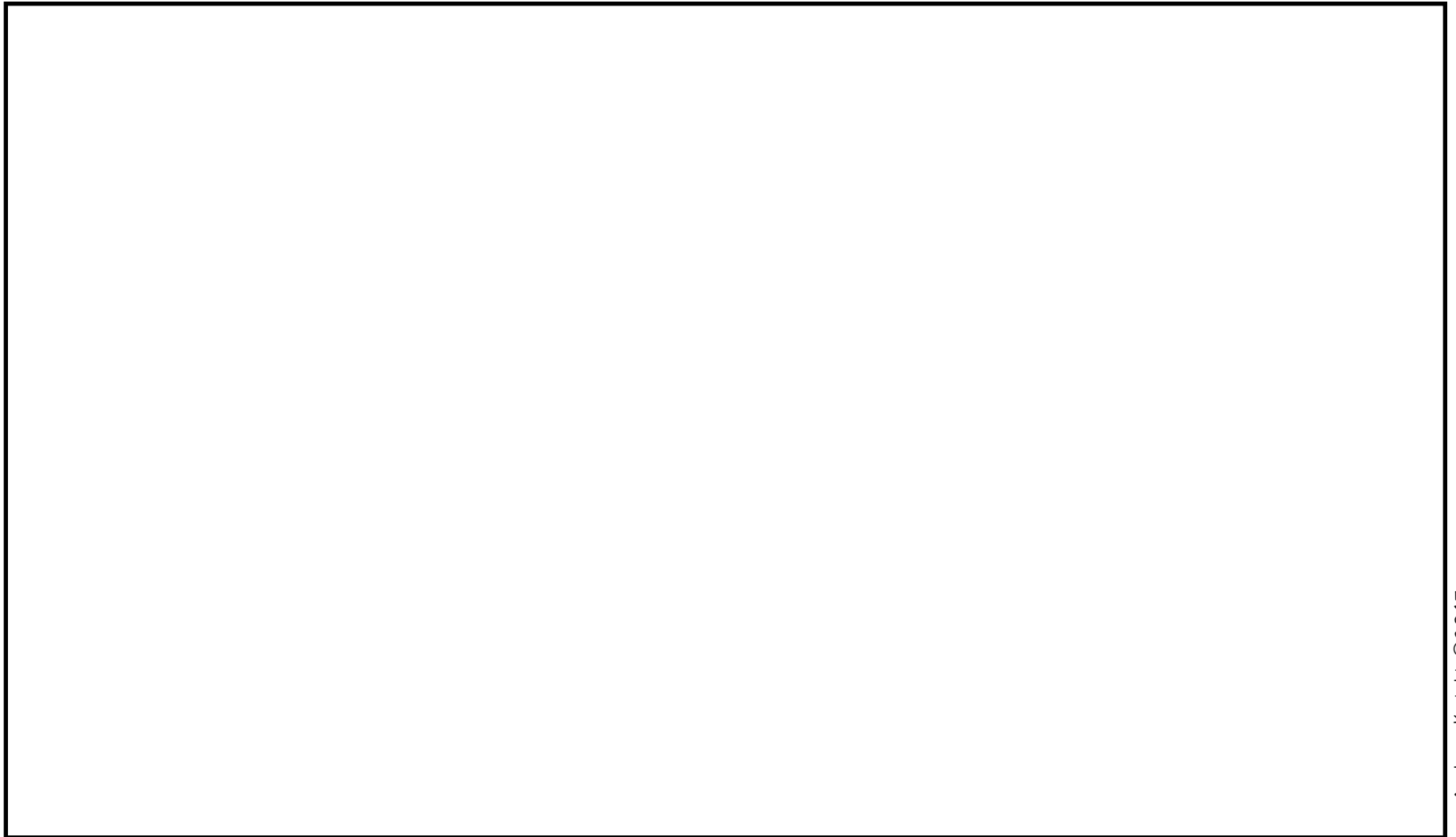
to lay eggs

soil

an object wound in a spiral

SMART ART

Using details from the text, draw a picture of a wetland habitat. Include and Label these items in your drawing:
1 insect, 1 reptile, 1 mammal, 1 bird, and 2 different plants.



Overview

I originally wrote the text of this book with the You Read to Me, I'll Read to You books in mind. I love those types of books because they allow two people of different reading abilities to read together. If read individually, this book is most appropriate for a second-semester first-grader or a first-semester second-grader. However, the text is already differentiated in its design, so it's perfect for mixed-ability partners to read together or for a child to read with a family member at home. The text on the bottom of each page is simple and predictable. The "Fun Fact" on each page, though, was written at a higher level of text difficulty, so it's just-right for a stronger reader or a parent.

Please know that some of the "Fun Facts" contain an underlined key word which may be unfamiliar vocabulary for your students. These words may require further explanation from you during your science lesson.

The assembly of the book is simple. My tip is to use the text to support your science instruction and have the children work in the book before cutting the pieces out. I suggest:

- reading it together
- highlighting key words or underlining important information
- adding additional questions on sticky notes
- encouraging them to color the pictures realistically

Then, they can cut the pages apart and glue their flaps onto the appropriate page. If they haven't made a flap book before, you may need to show them how to pre-fold the flap so it lifts easily and where to apply the glue. Kids who have never made a flap book before tend to glue the whole picture on the page and then wonder why their flap won't flip up! :)

I have also included an optional written response sheet which requires students to closely reread the text so they can discuss and answer the questions. The sheets can be done individually, with a partner, in a small guided group, or as a follow-up homework assignment. Depending on how you use it, it may also serve as an assessment. This particular set also includes a Venn diagram, a key-word matching sheet, and a drawing activity, all of which may be used as assessment tools.

Thank You

Thank you so much for your interest in this item. I hope you and your students enjoy adding this to your science lessons on animal habitats. Copyright Information: This item is intended for single classroom use by the original purchaser of the item. Distribution to others is prohibited unless multiple licenses are purchased.

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