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*Environmental Learning Center
of Goshen College*

Wonderful Wetlands

6th - 8th

Program Description

Immerse students in a wetland ecosystem by putting on waders to dip for small animals, identifying these critters and hiking around the wetland. Throughout each activity and game, students recognize physical and biological components of each wetland type and the important functions of wetlands.

Program Objectives

Students will:

- Explore a marsh ecosystem and discover the plants and animals living there
- Sample for aquatic macroinvertebrates, learn to identify them and utilize this data as an indicator of water quality

Program Outline

Students rotate in groups through four different activity stations:

1. Wetland Dipping: Students use waders and nets to dip for aquatic macroinvertebrates in a wetland ecosystem.
2. Wetland Lab: Students use microscopes and field guides to identify aquatic macroinvertebrates. Then students explore how this data can be used to determine the water quality of the wetland at the time of the program.
3. Hike: Students hike around the wetland participating in various age-appropriate activities.
4. Game: Students play a tag game to understand how water quality impacts macroinvertebrate populations.

Vocabulary

- Wetland
- Macroinvertebrate
- Invasive Species
- Pollution Tolerance Index

Quick Facts

Season	Fall: September - November
	Spring: April - May
	Summer: June
Grades	6th - 8th
Program Length	4 hours
Maximum # of Students	80 Students

Standards Correlations

6.LS.1 Investigate and describe how homeostasis is maintained as living things seek out their basic needs of food, water, shelter, space, and air.

6.LS.5 Research invasive species and discuss their impact on ecosystems.

7.ESS.7 Describe the positive and negative environmental impacts of obtaining and utilizing various renewable and nonrenewable energy resources in Indiana. Determine which energy resources are the most beneficial and efficient.

8.LS.9 Examine traits of individuals within a species that may give them an advantage or disadvantage to survive and reproduce in stable or changing environment.

See Standards Correlations for Wonderful Wetlands for more academic connections.