

Wetland Metaphors (page 2)

Many functions of wetlands can be explored through the use of **metaphors**. A metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase meaning one kind of object or idea is used in place of another to create a comparison between them. In other words, a metaphor represents a concept or idea through another concept or idea. Saying "Paul's brain is a powerful computer" is using a metaphor. Paul's brain isn't really a computer, but it is being compared to a computer to make the point that he is very smart. Other examples include "Books are windows of thought" or "The lion is king of the jungle."

DIRECTIONS

Examine the following pictures. How could each be a metaphor for a wetland? Write your answers in the spaces provided.

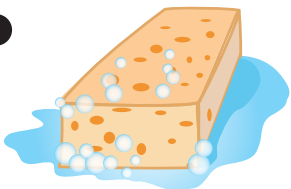
Example



Cradle

Wetlands provide nursery areas that shelter, protect and feed young wildlife.

1



Sponge

2



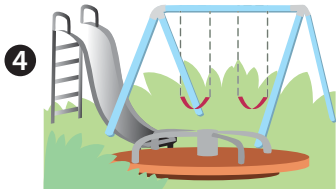
Filter

3



Tower

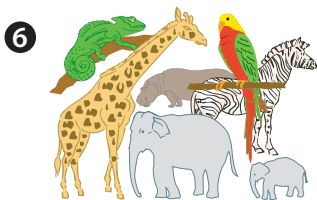
Wetland Metaphors (page 3)



Playground



Bed



Zoo



Productive Garden



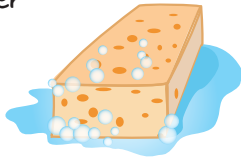
Barrier

Wetland Metaphors


Before students begin the activity, explain the concept of a metaphor and ask them to provide general examples of their own. Make sure they grasp the idea before applying it to wetlands. The purpose of this activity is for students to develop an appreciation and understanding of wetlands through the power of metaphor, linking the characteristics and natural functions of wetlands to the familiar realm of everyday life.

Answers to Wetland Metaphors Activity

1
Wetlands act as giant sponges by absorbing heavy rainfall and releasing the water very slowly. This action helps to prevent flooding.



5
Wetlands are resting places for a variety of wildlife.




2
Wetlands help purify and filter water that passes through them.




6
Wetlands support a wide diversity of wildlife.



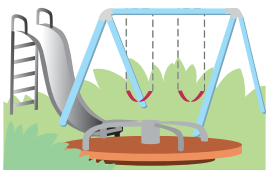
3
Wetlands are important storage areas that collect rainwater.



7
Food is abundant in a productive wetland.



4
Many recreational activities take place in and around wetlands.



8
Wetlands serve as buffers between fresh and salt water.

