

Wetland Vocabulary

Station #4

Directions:

- 1) Draw vocabulary card from the stack of words.
- 2) Classify the word into one of the three groups

I use the word...

I've heard the word...

I've NEVER heard the word...

according to your understanding of their meanings.

- 3) Use the KEY to check or confirm the meaning.

Repeat steps 1-3 for up to 10 vocabulary cards.

Purpose: Learn new vocabulary related to the Wetlands.



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Algae	Natural resources
Amphipods	Nutrients
Channel	Phytoplankton
Detritus	Plankton Salmon
Diatoms	Salt Marsh
Ecology	Seagrass beds
Ecosystem	Sediments
Estuarine	Shoal grass
Estuary	Slough
Filter-feeding	Tide gates
Food chain –	Turtle grass
Food web Habitat	Uplands Watershed
Macroinvertebrates	Wetlands
Migration	Widgeon grass
Mitigation	Zones (or Natural Communities)
Mudflats (or Tidal Flats)	

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Key Vocabulary

Algae – marine or freshwater plants that are single-celled, colonial, or multi-celled, with chlorophyll but no true roots, stems, leaves, flowers, or seeds

Amphipods – small shrimp-like crustaceans

Channel – in an estuary, the area never completely drained at low tide, where water of varying degrees of salinity flows back and forth

Detritus – newly dead or decaying organic matter coated with bacteria

Diatoms – golden-brown algae. One of the most common groups of phytoplankton.

Ecology – the study of interactions and interrelationships of organisms and their environment

Ecosystem – a community of interrelated organisms and their environment

Estuarine – pertaining to estuaries

Estuary – a semi-enclosed body of water where river meets the sea and fresh water and salt water mix

Filter-feeding – a way that some animals sort out and eat very small plants and animals from the water

Food chain – a sequence of organisms in which each is food for the next

Food web – all the feeding relations of a community taken together; includes production, consumption, decomposition, and the flow of energy

Habitat – the place where an organism lives

Macroinvertebrates – large organisms without backbones, such as worms, snails, and insects

Migration – to fly (or travel) to another place in search of warmer climate

Mitigation – a form of compensation for destruction of natural areas; often it means rebuilding or providing new habitat for the organisms displaced

Mudflats (or Tidal Flats) – One of the four natural communities of the estuary. Low lying land exposed at low tide, composed primarily of muds, silt, and clays.

List obtained at <http://estuaries.gov/vocabulary.html> and slightly modified for Texas coast.

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Natural resources – organisms or materials of the natural world that humans value

Nutrients – organic or inorganic materials that living things require for growth and repair

Phytoplankton – see plankton

Plankton – small or microscopic organisms that float or drift with the current. May be plants (phytoplankton) or animals (zooplankton).

Salmon – fish that are born and spend early life in freshwater, migrate to the ocean, and return to freshwater to spawn

Salt Marsh – coastal wetland flooded periodically by tidal, brackish water, with plants adapted to salty soils

Seagrass beds – One of the four natural communities of the estuary. It is where seagrasses are anchored to the muddy soil creating a safe-haven for many estuarine animals.

Sediments – particles deposited by wind and water

Shoal grass – found in very shallow water. Looks very much like the grass in a lawn. It has thin blades that may also be used by birds to pad their nests. Shoal grass is extremely adaptable to transition from salt water to fresh water.

Slough – a small part of a main bay or estuary

Tide gates – structures that block incoming tide water and release outgoing fresh water in order to keep low-lying land drained for agriculture

Turtle grass – common seagrass that characteristically has deeper root structures than any of the other seagrasses. Distinguished from other seagrasses by its broad flat leaf

Uplands – One of the four natural communities of the estuary. The forested lands lying above the reach of the highest tides.

Watershed – area of land drained by a river or river system. The area defined by the ridgelines of mountains.

Wetlands – areas flooded periodically or constantly that support a prevalence of plants adapted to saturated soil conditions

Widgeon grass – a fresh water plant with very high salinity tolerance

Zones (or Natural Communities) – uplands, salt marsh, mudflat, and seagrass beds

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Chart to sort vocabulary words

Words I use...	Words I've heard before...	Words I've NEVER heard...