

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

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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

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

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## Station #4

Chart to sort vocabulary words

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