

Freshwater & Wetland Habitats

Reed Maze Wetlands with Nookling

Learning target

Compare freshwater habitats and their organism needs.



Before you begin

Use the reference page and discussion prompts on their own, or open the optional browser adventure. No earlier lesson or physical kit is required.

For online play: use an internet-connected current browser with local storage enabled. Read the three-part Gemling briefing, answer the quick check, and apply the evidence at three checkpoints. Retry feedback supports review; results are not a secure test or gradebook.

Use for teacher-led review, science centers or partner practice. Independent readers may need support with the vocabulary below. The design target is grades 3-5; choose support based on the learner.

Vocabulary and concepts to discuss

Ponds; streams; wetlands; water conditions; land-water connections

Open Reed Maze Wetlands - direct lesson link

Scan the QR code or use the clickable link. This guide is usable offline; the adventure runs on an external educational website.



Freshwater & Wetland Habitats - key ideas

1. The first clues

Freshwater habitats include ponds and streams. Wetlands have water covering or saturating soil for part or all of the time.

2. How the clues connect

Water flow, depth, oxygen, plants and shelter influence which organisms can live there. A pond and a fast stream are not identical habitats.

3. Our evidence record

Our organism card requires slow water and shelter among stems. A reedy pond edge better matches those needs than a fast bare channel in this comparison.

Keep the science accurate

A habitat includes food, water, air and space, not only a nest. Use representative habitats without memorizing every biome.

Apply the evidence

Use a specific observation from this lesson to explain one choice. Point to a clue, then connect that clue to a scientific idea.

Curriculum reference: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/dci-arrangement/3-Is4-biological-evolution-unity-and-diversity>

Talk through the evidence

1. Which habitat has the stated slow-water shelter?

Expected answer: The reedy pond edge

Reasoning: Our organism card requires slow water and shelter among stems. A reedy pond edge better matches those needs than a fast bare channel in this comparison.

2. What describes a wetland?

Expected answer: Ground covered or saturated with water at least part of the time

Reasoning: Freshwater habitats include ponds and streams. Wetlands have water covering or saturating soil for part or all of the time.

3. Which condition can distinguish freshwater habitats?

Expected answer: Water flow

Reasoning: Freshwater habitats include ponds and streams. Wetlands have water covering or saturating soil for part or all of the time.

4. Why include surrounding land in our study?

Expected answer: Land and water conditions connect

Reasoning: Freshwater habitats include ponds and streams. Wetlands have water covering or saturating soil for part or all of the time.

Guide the discussion

Ask learners to name the evidence that supports their answer. If an answer differs, revisit the matching key idea on page 2 and invite a revised explanation.

Online rewards: this lesson grants one fixed digital Expedition Discovery. Five saved digital Gemling friends become available only after all six distinct subject lessons are complete, in any order. Digital rewards do not establish physical ownership.