

## Dipping Into the Marsh

*Overview:* Students collect, identify and observe wetland animals using dip nets, magnifiers and field guides.

### Objectives:

1. Name some animals that live in and use freshwater wetlands.
2. Discuss adaptations of wetland animals, and advantages of living in this habitat.
3. Identify ways that the inhabitants of the wetland depend on each other.
4. Discuss characteristic of freshwater marsh habitats.

*Time:* 20-30 minutes

### Materials:

- 4 Magnifying viewers
- 4 collection trays
- 4 Marsh Invertebrate guides
- 4 Small dipnets
- 4 Spoons
- 1 Pond Life Guide

### Procedure:

1. Before the school arrives in the morning, field trip guides will collect specimens from the marsh using a larger dipnet and placing in collection trays filled with a little water. It's helpful to scoop excess duckweed out of the trays to make viewing easier.
2. After arrival at the marsh, divide students into four small groups and assign each group a tray, a viewer, a marsh guide, a spoon and a dipnet. You will need to show the students how to use the viewers.
3. Go around and encourage students to look closely to see smaller things, show them how to use viewers, and help them use the marsh guides to identify what they see.