

# Wetland Metaphors

Overview: Use a selection of common objects and investigate how they might represent natural functions of wetlands. Should be used as wrap up activity after students learn about the functions of wetlands.

Goal: Students will have a better understanding about the function of wetlands.

Objective:

1. Students will name several functions of wetlands
2. Students will use metaphor to understand wetlands

Time: About 10 minutes

Materials: Items listed below, or similar items.

<u>OBJECT</u>	<u>METAPHORIC FUNCTION</u>
Sponge	Absorbs excess water caused by runoff
Pillow	A resting place for migratory birds
Mixer	Mixes nutrients and oxygen into the water
Baby Doll	Provides a nursery that shelters, protects, and feeds young wildlife
Strainer	Strains silt and debris from water (keeps water supply clean)
Coffee Filter	Filters smaller impurities from water (excess nutrients, toxins)
Cereal	Provides nutrient-rich foods for wildlife and humans
Soap	Helps cleanse the environment
Picture of house	A habitat, home for plants and animals
Picture of hotel	Resting or wintering place for migrating waterfowl

Procedure:

1. Begin by explaining that a metaphor represents a thing or idea through another thing or idea, such as “your room is a pigsty.” Does this mean your room has mud and pigs in it? No, it means it is messy.
2. Explain that each item represents a function of the wetland (something the wetland does that helps us and nature).
3. Give each student an item. Go around and as a group, try to think of what each object might represent. Allow for different ideas and help guide the discussion.