

**Here is a list of some of the words that you will need to know in order to make learning about wetlands easier for you.**

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## Vocabulary

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aquatic: living or growing in water  
arboreal: of or pertaining to the trees; treelike  
bill: the parts of a bird's jaws that are covered with a horny or leathery sheath; beak  
brackish water: a mixture of salt water and fresh water found in estuaries  
circulation: the transmission or passage of anything from place to place, or person to person  
clone: a population of individuals genetically identical to the unit or individual form; a person or thing, that duplicates, imitates, or closely resembles another in appearance, function, etc.  
colonies: a group of organisms of the same kind living or growing in close association  
coralline: composed of coral or having the structure of coral  
deciduous: the kind of trees that lose their leaves once a year  
detritus: rock in small particles or other material worn or broken away from a mass, as by the action of water, or glacial ice; debris  
detritivores: organisms that eat debris, or detritus  
ecosystem: a community of living organisms  
embayments: a bay, or a baylike formation  
endangered: threatened with extinction; exposed to danger  
epiphytes: a plant that grows above the ground, supported by the structure of another plant or object, and deriving its nutrients and water from rain, the air, dust, etc.  
erosion: rain or wind causing the loss of topsoil  
estuary: the area where a river (freshwater) empties into the sea (saltwater)  
exoskeleton: an external covering or integuments especially when hard like a shell  
eutrophic: water that is rich in nutrients producing abundant plant life causing the water to appear murky and low transparency  
evergreen: kind of trees that keep their leaves year round  
excrete: to eliminate wastes or harmful materials from blood or tissue  
exotic: not native; introduced from abroad; foreign  
fledgling: a young bird that has recently learned to fly  
habitat: the natural environment of an organism; place that is natural for the life and growth of an organism  
hardwood: slow growing flowering trees with broad leaves  
halophytes: a plant that thrives in saline soil  
instinctive: prompted by or resulting from or as if from instinct; natural; unlearned  
invertebrate: without a backbone or spinal column  
lenticels: a corky slash or spot appearing on plant bark, about the epidermal stoma, that allows for the exchange of gases between the atmosphere and inner tissue.  
mangroves: any tropical tree or shrub belonging to the genus *Rhizophora*, of the family Rhizophoraceae, the species of which are mostly low trees growing in marshes or tidal shores, noted for interlacing above-ground roots  
metabolism: the process in an organism by which its body is produced, maintained, and destroyed; how energy is made  
midden: a refuse heap  
molt: to cast or shed the feathers, skin, or the like, in the process of renewal or growth

native: being the place or environment in which a person was born or a thing came into being; remaining or growing in a natural and original state.

nitrification: oxidize ammonia to nitrates, nitrites, their respective acids by bacterial action

non-point Source Pollution: source of a contaminant is unidentifiable; that is, the pollutant can come from one of many places

oligotrophic: water that is low in nutrients and is characterized by low plant production and high transparency (clear water)

pesticides: a chemical preparation for destroying plant, fungal, or animal pests

pH: a measure that indicates the relative acidity or alkalinity of a substance. pH ranges from 1 (most acidic) to 14 (most basic), where a pH of 7 is neutral

phytoplankton: single-cell marine plants responsible for photosynthesis

plumage: the entire feathery covering of a bird

pneumatophore: specialized structure developed from the root in certain plants growing in swamps and marshes, serving as a respiratory organ

point Source Pollution: pollutants that are discharged from and can be traced back to an identifiable point or source, such as a factory's discharge pipe or a sewage ditch

propagules: a structure, as a plant cutting that is used for propagation

raptors: a bird of prey

ratite: having a flat, unkeeled sternum, as an Ostrich, Emu, or Mao

rhizome: a rootlike underground stem, commonly in the horizontal position that produces roots below, and sends up shoots progressively from the upper surface

rookery: a colony or breeding place of rooks or other gregarious creatures, as penguins, large birds or seals

salinity: a word describing the amount in a liquid

saturated: the condition in soil in which it has absorbed as much water as it can physically hold

sediment: soil that finds its way into rivers, streams and lakes

starvation: the act of starving, or the state of being starved

talons: a claw, especially on a bird of prey

tides: changes in water level due to the gravity of the sun and the moon

ultrafiltration: a filter having pores sufficiently small to prevent the passage of suspended particles

vertebrate: having a segmented backbone

wetland: an area where water saturates the soil for several months each year, usually during the growing season

wingspread: the distance between the outermost tips of the wings of a bird, insect, etc., when the wings are extended as far as possible