Subject: Science

Level: Standard 3

Strand:Systems and Interaction

Topic: Importance of Wetlands

Key Points:

- Wetland is an example of an aquatic habitat.
- Examples of aquatic habitats are rivers, ponds, oceans and swamps.
- “Wetland" is a term which describes an extensive area of land which is flat, water soaked and also has sections which are covered with water.
- An example of a wetland is a swamp.

Activity: Read the following passage and respond to 1 to 4 below:

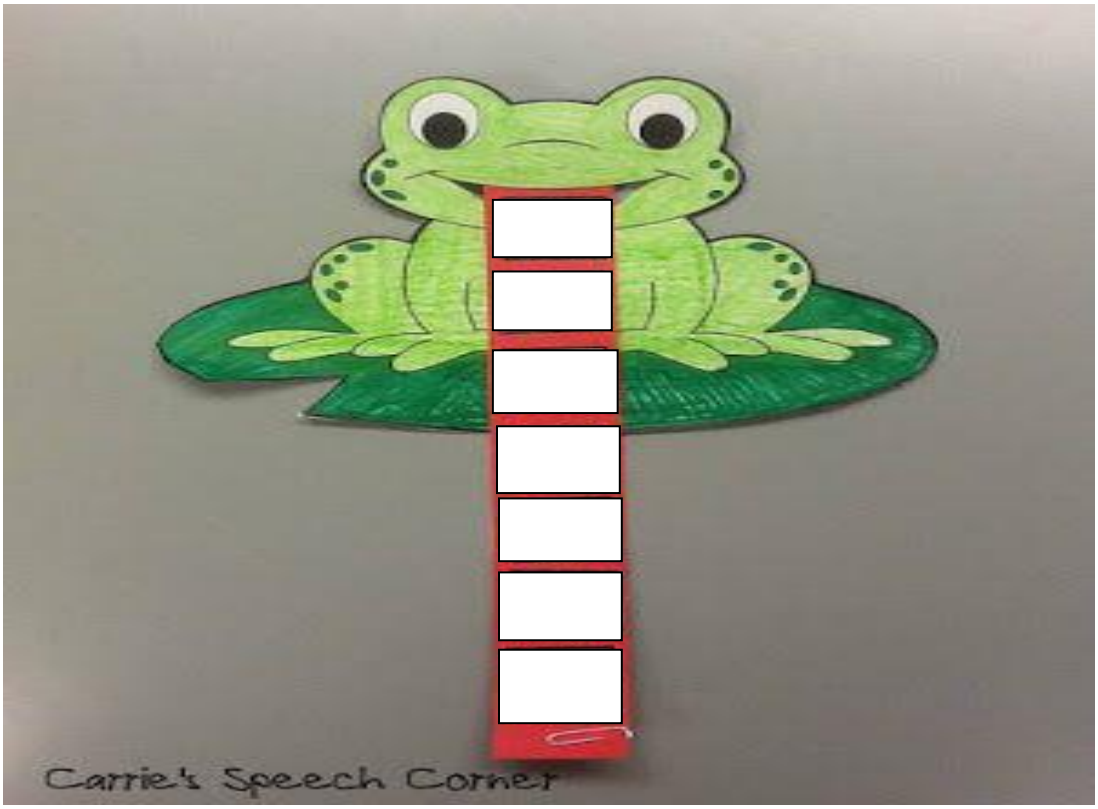
Wetlands can be thought of as "biological supermarkets." They provide food and shelter which attract many animal species. These animals rely on wetlands for part of or all of their life-cycle. Swamps are the type of wetland found in Trinidad and Tobago.

Swamps have plants such as red, black and white mangroves. Leaves and stems act as food for many small aquatic insects, shellfish and small fish. These animals are then used as food for larger fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals. Examples of some animals which dwell in swamps are oyster, mussels, clams, conch and shrimp.

Many birds are found in the swamp. Some birds live in the swamp (heron) while others only roost at night (e.g. Scarlet Ibis). Other birds use the swamp as a site for breeding and nesting (e.g. water fowls).

Humans enjoy recreational opportunities which the wetland allows, such as fishing and sightseeing. We must however, follow the laws so wetlands are protected and remain for future generations.

1. Use the list on Croaker the Frog to name seven plants or animals found in a swamp.



Drawing of Croaker the Frog **(Carrie's Speech Corner, Pinterest)**

2. Why are wetlands called "biological supermarkets"?

_____

3. Name two examples of wetlands in Trinidad and Tobago. You may have to do some research.

_____

_____

4. What are the uses of the plants that grow in swamps?

_____

_____

You can draw some of your favorite wetland animals, similar to the decorative piece shown below.

Decorative piece on Ecosystems.



Assessment:

1. Why are swamps important to some birds?

_____

_____

_____

2. Where can animals find shelter in a swamp?

_____

3. List 3 reasons why it important to preserve wetlands.

_____

_____

_____

Answer Key

Activity:

1. Any from the following or other appropriate examples:
   oyster, mussels, clams, conch, shrimp. insects, shellfish, fish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, mammals, red, black and white mangroves.
2. The swamps provide a plentiful supply of food for animals including humans.
3. Any two from the following:
   - Caroni Swamp, Trinidad
   - Nariva Swamp, Trinidad
   - Buccoo Reef / Bon Accord Lagoon Complex, Tobago
4. a. They are a source of food
   b. They provide shelter

Assessment:

1. Why are swamps important to some birds?

a. Source of food

b. Place to roost

c. Place to nest

2. Where can animals find shelter in a swamp?
   Animals sleep on trees or amongst rocks and roots in the water.
3. List 3 reasons why it important to preserve wetlands.

a. Birds get food, roost and nest in the swamps.

b. Plants provide food and shelter or homes.

c. Humans will no longer be able to enjoy recreational opportunities which the wetland allows. They will also lose an important source of food.

The following are other appropriate answers:

- Animals which depend on the wetland would die from lack of food or shelter
- Plants which depend on the wetland would die from lack of water.

Acknowledgement

Activity with Picture	**Reference**
1. Use the list on Croaker the Frog	https://www.pinterest.com/pin/69383650485942046/ Carrie's Speech Corner: Articulation Frogs ~ A Craftivity
2. Decorative piece on Ecosystems.	https://www.pinterest.com/dluistro/ecosystem-activities/more_ideas/?ideas_referrer=1