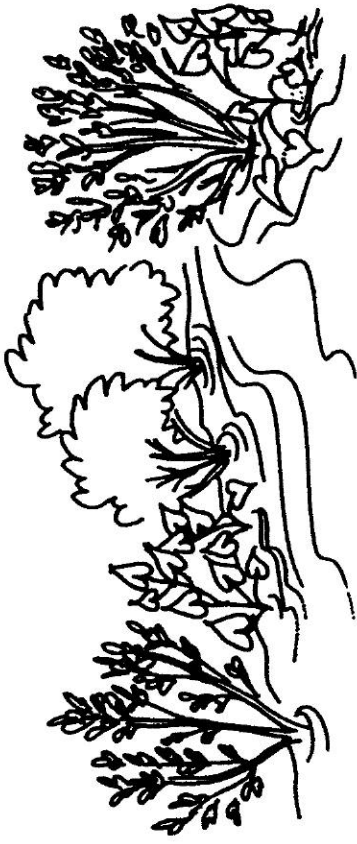


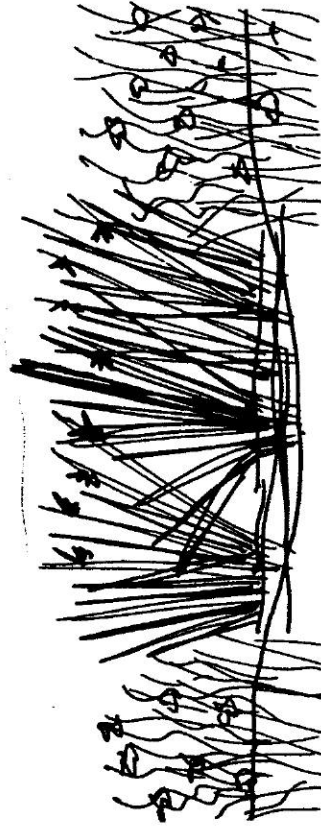
1. This wetland is sandy and the water is always salty. When the tide goes out, the animals living here burrow into the sand for protection. Shorebirds search along the water's edge for a meal. Drifting seaweeds are the only plants here.



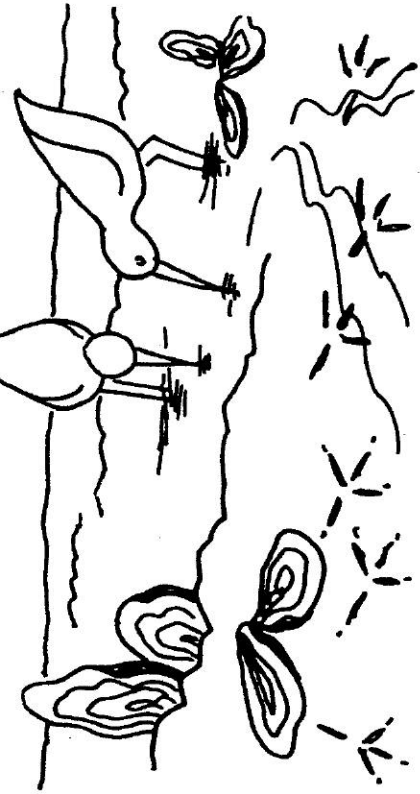
2. Low scrubby shrubs grow in this damp place that gets flooded from time to time. Its dampness makes it a good habitat for reptiles, amphibians and many other animals. The water here is freshwater.



3. In the sunny edges of a pond underwater plants with floating leaves are growing. This miniature aquatic forest is home to little fish and tiny aquatic animals. Ducks, geese and other waterfowl may find a meal here.



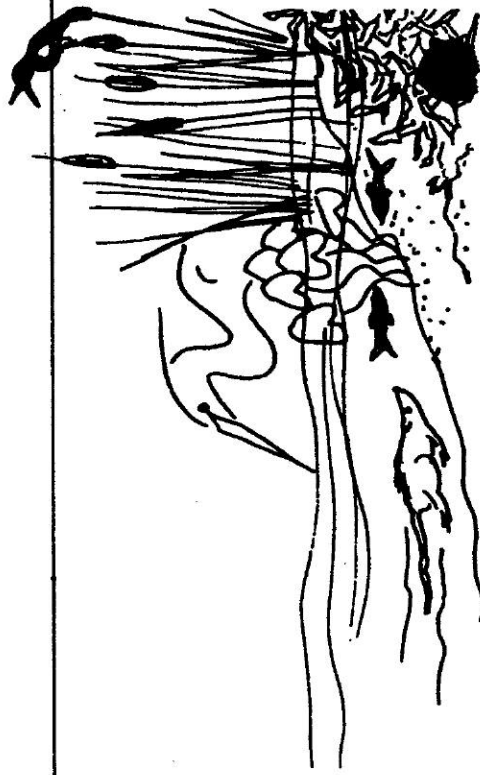
4. A low area in a field has filled with rain and has stayed wet for weeks. In the summer this place may dry up for a while, but most of the year it is alive with aquatic insects, frogs and water-loving plants.



5. When the tide goes out over this wetland, hungry birds can find a lot to eat here in the rich mud. There may be small amounts of seaweed visible but no tall plants. The water here is salt.



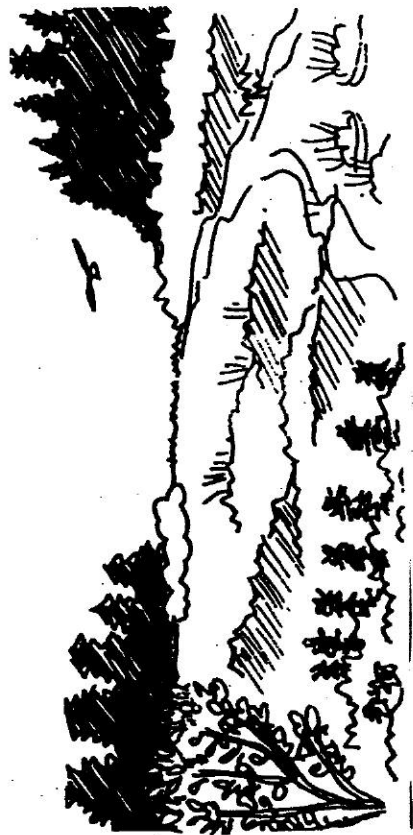
7. Deep in the forest is a place that forms a pond in the spring and stays damp all year. Water-loving trees thrive in this place, giving cover for wild flowers. Frogs and salamanders can find wet, shady places to lay their eggs.



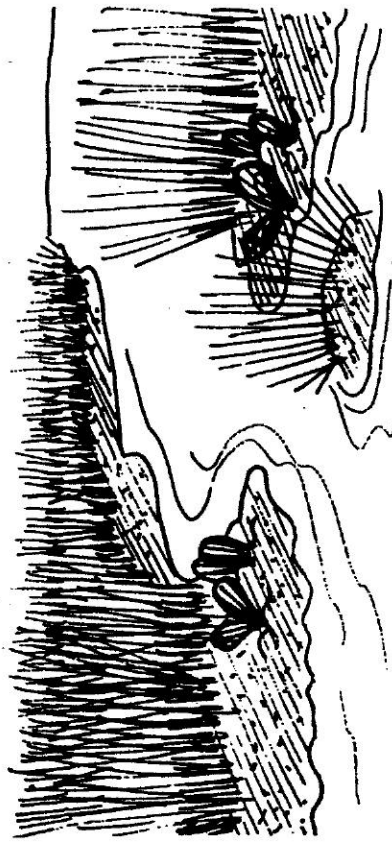
6. Tides can push up rivers far enough to make the water level change, even though saltwater almost never reaches this wetland. Wetland grasses can be seen out of the water standing tall especially when the tide is out. A daily cycle of flooding and drying provides habitat for fish, birds and mammals.



8. In a salty bay near the ocean's edge, algae and sea grasses grow near the shore. They are rooted to the bottom and they need light to make food, so they only grow where the water is shallow. Many kinds of animals eat these plants or use them for a safe home.



9. Once there was a lake here, but now its bed has filled with waterlogged layers of decaying plants, called peat. It may look dry from the surface, but the spongy, moss-covered lake floor holds much water. Many unique and rare plants and animals are living here.



10. Tides move salt and fresh water back and forth through tall grasses growing in the water but emerging in thick mounds above the water. When these grasses die, they break down into particles of food called detritus. Detritus is food for great numbers of animals living here.