

WETLAND STUDY

Things to Do:

1. Sit quietly for a few minutes and get to know your wetland. You may want to record some impressions of your wetland by writing or drawing.
2. Make a map of your wetland. Record on your map where you are doing your study, including all sampling locations. Describe how the land surrounding the wetland is used.
3. Take a soil sample. Classify your soil using your prepared soil color chart. Record observations on texture, moisture and color.
4. Take the temperature of air, soil, and water. If possible, get a deep water temperature as well. Record temperature in your field notebook.
5. Test the pH of the water with the pH meter in your kit. Record pH in your field notebook.
6. Identify three plants growing in or around the wetland and record this information. Determine whether they are wetland indicator plants using the Washington DNR booklet, Recognizing Wetlands. If you have permission, collect and preserve 1-3 plant specimens using the plant press.

7. Look for birds and mammals, or evidence of their presence. Describe any animals you see or any clues you find in your field notebook.
8. Look for aquatic animals on or under the water surface. Describe those you find in your field notebook. If you have permission, collect a small number of selected animals and plants to set up a temporary tank at home.
9. When you leave, look around to make certain you have left the wetland much as you found it.

