



## Playcard Environmental Education Center Pre-visit Information Sheet

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### Eight Grade Playcard Pre-visit Information Sheet

#### Grade 8: Biological Diversity, Adaptation, and Human Impact

#### Science Standards Addressed:

Biological Diversity as it relates to cyclic patterns of seasons. Energy flow and food webs. Adaptations and competition of limited resources. Human impact on biodiversity and ecosystem health. Environmental ethics (reduce, reuse, recycle) (8ESS1-1, LS2-4, LS4-2, LS2-7)

#### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Students will explore how cyclic patterns of seasons and geologic history affect organisms' growth and activity. Students will also learn about the flow of energy in a black-water swamp ecosystem by taking on the role of a wetland ecologist: They will explore, collect samples of organisms, and analyze adaptations of upland and wetland species. Human impacts to local ecosystems will be explored. Environmental ethics (reduce, reuse, recycle) are stressed as a way to conserve wetlands for future generations.

#### VOCABULARY

[Wetlands](#)  
[Environmental Ethics](#)

[Uplands](#)  
[Limited Resources](#)

[Diversity](#)  
[Competition](#)

[Energy Flow](#)  
[Cyclic Patterns](#)

#### CONCEPTS TO DISCUSS WITH STUDENTS BEFORE VISIT

**Ecology of Wetlands, Wetland Conservation, Human impact on biodiversity**

#### Preparing for your Visit

1. Please encourage students to wear clothing appropriate for the weather conditions and be ready to explore nature with all their senses.
2. CHAPERONES: Students should have 1 adult for every 5 students. This is not a requirement but does add to the program significantly.
3. Please bring ONE 1 GALLON SIZED ZIPLOCK BAG PER STUDENT for collections.

#### Post Visit Activity

As an assessment, each grade level is encouraged to create a learning, "feedback" project. You can analyze the different habitats around your own school for evidence of wetlands vs. uplands to discover whether your school was built on a wetland community. You may also web-quest the wetland conservation debate and section 404 of the Clean Water Act to enhance post visit connections. Please post these experiences to the web calendar and/or e-mail these connections to... [benabercrombie@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:benabercrombie@horrycountyschools.net)

**Video Extensions:**

Feel free to view any of these videos to supplement your field experience to Playcard.

[Forever Wild! Video Library Youtube Channel](#)

This is the link to all of the video series from the past and present. A great video documentary series showcasing many years of outdoor environmental education programming.

[Forever Wild! A River Runs Through It](#)

This episode focuses on the Waccamaw River Ecology with the Waccamaw Riverkeeper Hamp Shuping. Travel down the Waccamaw River and experience all that nature has to offer and all of the exciting projects and conservation programs that encompass the Riverkeeper initiative.