

ADVENTURES IN READING WITH

Nature
CAT

MARSH

EXPLORERS!



PBS
Learning Media



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MARSH MADNESS

LET'S FIND OUT!



Daisy wants to learn all about that smelly muck. She finds out that muck is a soft, wet kind of soil. It's made up of dirt, **decayed** plants, and even animal waste. It sometimes smells like rotten eggs! What's so great about it? Many tiny living things, such as **bacteria** and **insects**, feed on the muck. Also, it has a lot of **nutrients** to help plants grow.

Nature Cat and his friends learned a lot from their trip to the marsh! They saw many animals such as herons, eagles, turtles, and lizards. They found out that stinky mud, called muck, is full of tiny creatures. Why are marshes important?

Marshes are wetlands that connect land and water. They store and clean the water that flows through them. They can soak up extra water during a flood. Marshes are also **habitats** for many plants and animals.

A healthy marsh is home to animals that crawl, swim, and fly.

NATURE EXPLORERS!

Nature Cat and his friends find out that trash polluted the water and was hurting the marsh. Trash pollution made the marsh flood.

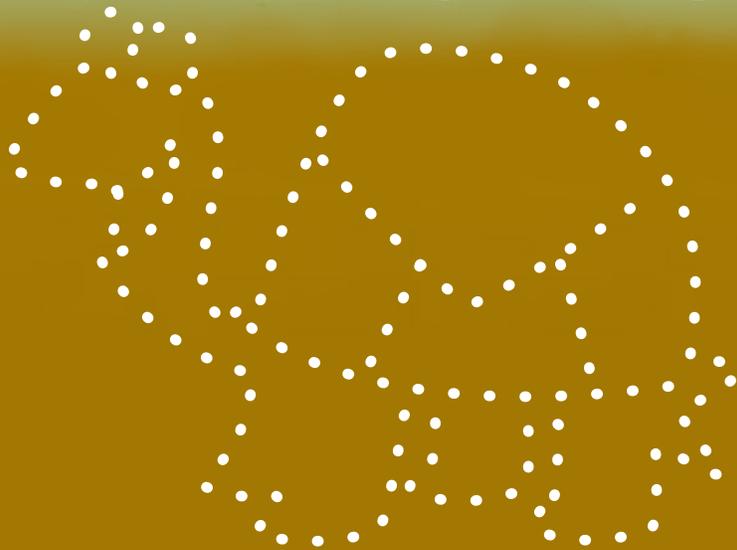
People hurt marshes when they drain them for farms.

Healthy marshes have a world of living things living under the surface. Do you want to take a look inside ponds and marshes? Create your own pond viewer [here](#).



HELP HAL OUT!

Hal is splashing around in the marsh and feels something nibble his toe. He jumps and yelps! Hal can only see the outline of the animal under the water. Can you connect the dots and figure out what's living in the marsh?



GLOSSARY

bacteria: Tiny creatures that can only be seen under a microscope. Some are helpful and some are harmful.

decay: To slowly break down.

habitat: The natural place where something lives.

nutrient: Something a living thing need to stay alive and grow.

pollution: Something that is harmful to nature.