

Woods Creek Fen Field Trip – Kindergarten

Objectives:

Students will...

- Be able to identify why the fen is important habitat for plants and wildlife.
- Gain an appreciation for the resources that are in their backyard.

10:00 Arrive, Introduction as one large group (both K classes):

- Rules: “outdoor classroom”, respect rules (ourselves, peers, environment)
- Environmental briefings – stay on the trail; follow your instructor, being respectful of peers, wildlife and the environment.
- What is a wetland? What is a fen?
 - We will be going to a fen, which is a special type of wetland. It has special soils that allow only very specialized plants to live there. These plants then attract certain animals
 - Wetlands, and fens, are found all over the world and on every continent, except Antarctica
 - Most are natural, but some people even build wetlands in their property because there are many benefits to wetlands that we will discover when we are there.
 - Wetlands provide habitat for numerous plants and animals, offering shelter, food, and water.
- Split into two classes or groups

10:15- 10:45 Bird Explorations

- Students can use binoculars to find various birds that call Woods Creek Fen home

11:00 LUNCH

11:30 Station 1: Wetland Scavenger Hunt

- How do animals, insects and other creatures notice and move through the world around them?
- Walk to the center field in the fen and divide into small groups – 1 adult/group.
- Hand out the scavenger hunt sheets. Ask students to use their senses to explore the fen and find all of the plants and animals that are on the sheet
- Regroup and ask students what they found and where they found them. Is the fen a good place for animals to live? Any guesses why?

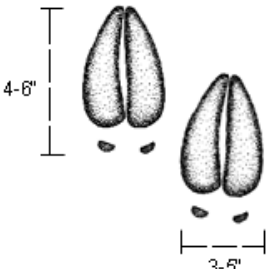














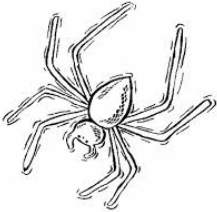
12:00 Station 2: Aquatic Macroinvertebrates

- Insects will be collected ahead of time and placed in bins for exploration.
- Students can explore the waterways by looking at the insects that live in Woods Creek. Macroinvertebrates can tell us a lot about how clean our water is because certain species can handle pollution while others can't. They are also an importance food resource for fish, birds, spiders, etc.
- Debrief: what did we find? Why is the fen an important resource?

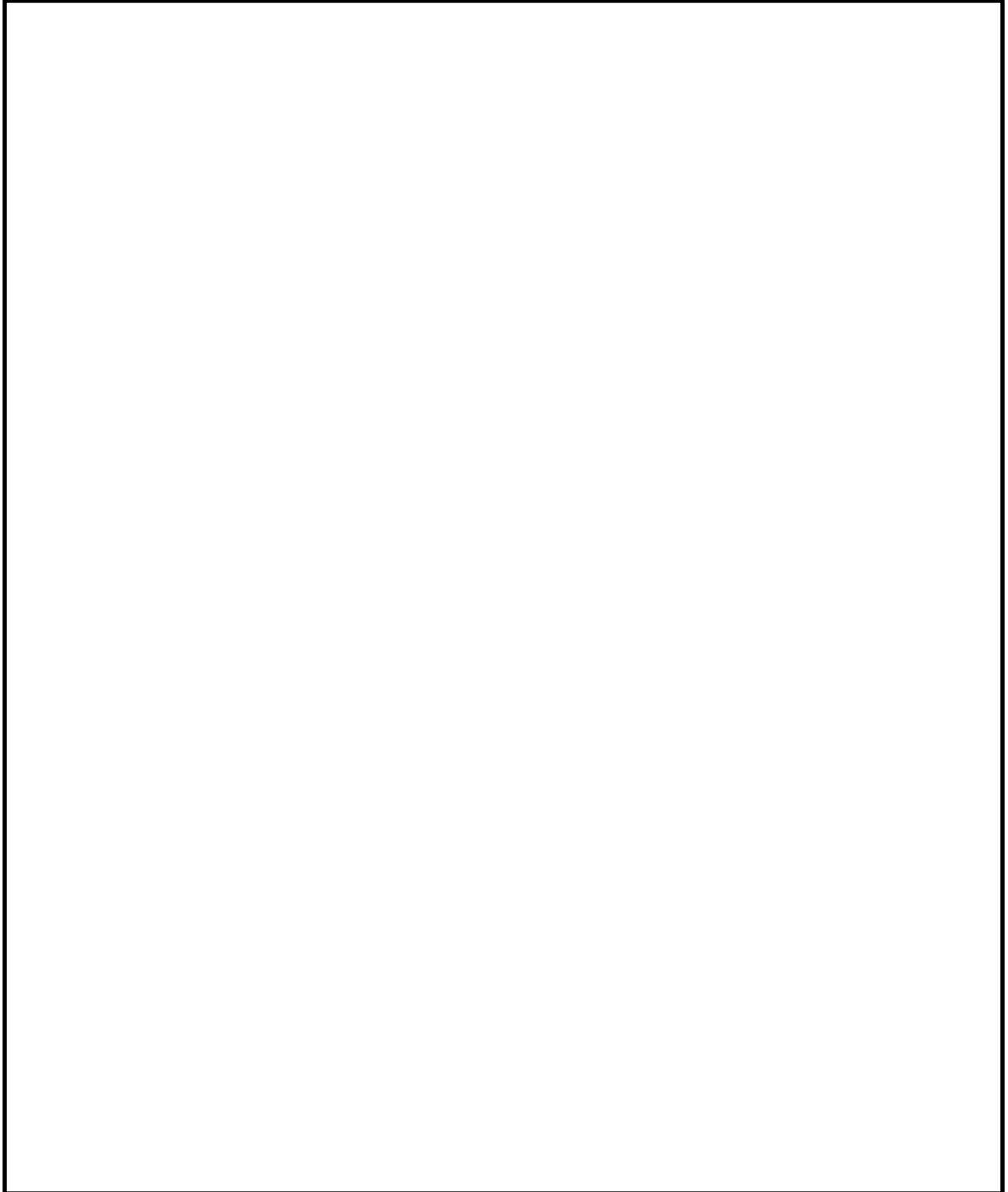




Wetland Fen Scavenger Hunt

 <p>Moose tracks</p>	 <p>Willow Leaves</p>	 <p>Moose Scat</p>	 <p>Potentilla</p>
 <p>Bog Birch</p>	 <p>Sedge (triangular stem)</p>	 <p>Grass (Hollow stem)</p>	 <p>Moss</p>
 <p>Wildflowers</p>	 <p>Mayfly Nymph</p>	 <p>Deer tracks</p>	 <p>A Raptor</p>
 <p>Butterfly</p>	 <p>Meadow vole</p>	 <p>Caddisfly</p>	 <p>Spider</p>

Draw a habitat that includes shelter, water, and food for a wetland animal:



Woods Creek Fen
5th Grade Field Trip

Schedule:

- **9:30** Students arrive
- **9:30-9:45** Introduction to field trip & behavioral expectations
- **9:45-10:15** Station 1
- **10:15-10:30** Snack at first station, switch
- **10:30-11:00** Station 2
- **~11:00-11:30** wrap up and game

Station 1: The Importance of Wetlands

- **Location:** By kiosk, where ground is dry.
- **Focus:** What is a Fen? Exploring this “fen”-tastic wetland in the Teton River Watershed.
- **Engage:** Introduce wetlands and what a fen is.
- **Explore #1:** “Let the Cattail Out of the Bag”
 - Each student closes their eyes, walks up to the bag and pulls an object out. Ask them to describe what it is and how it relates to wetlands. After each student has gone, explain how fens are unique wetlands because they support a diverse plant community and provide important habitats for wildlife (food, shelter, water).
- **Explore #2:** “Wetland in a Pan” demonstration
 - Wetlands perform very important functions, such as filtering pollutants, reducing flood damage, preventing soil erosion. We are going to make a model of how this works.
 - Split into 3 groups, have each group create their own wetland with materials.
 - When wetland is complete, pretend to have a light rainstorm. What happens?
 - Then pretend to have a flood. What does the wetland do?
 - Materials:
Pans, sponges, play dough, carpet scraps, cups, water jugs,

Station 2: Scavenger Hunt

- **Location:** Viewing platform and surrounding area. Students can explore up to the spring creek to the north, but **NOT** in the creek or past it because the water is deeper than their boots. Make sure a chaperone accompanies students.
- **Focus:** Plant identification and signs of animal life
- **Engage:** Ask students to explain what a community is and what their community is like.
- **Explain** why a fen supports diverse plant communities (Nutrient-rich, alkaline, peat-soils) and a good habitat for wildlife
- **Individual Exploration.** Set boundaries and let the kids explore the fen by completing their scavenger hunt (with adult chaperones floating).
 - Possibly split into 2 groups → have one group explore from the viewing platform and the other group explore north of the platform in the bushes not further than the stream (and not in the stream). Switch after 15 minutes
 - The Scavenger Hunt will take place throughout the course of the field trip; however, this station is dedicated to working on this part of the work sheet.

Wrap up: Group by kiosk meets up with other group out by viewing platform

- Play a game
 - Bear, trout, mosquito
 - Park Ranger








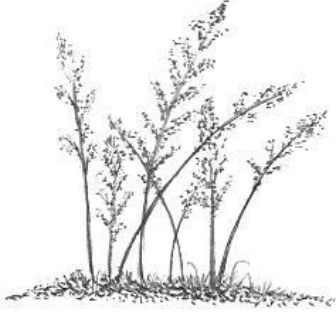
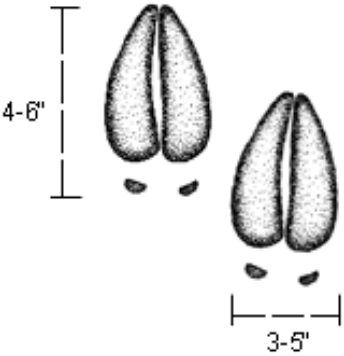


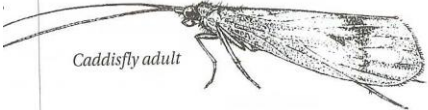


Idaho Content Standards Addressed
5th Grade Science

Goal:		Objective:
1. Unifying Concepts in Science	a. Understand systems, order and organization	603.01.a--Know that a system is an organized group of related objects that form a whole
	b. Understand concepts and processes of evidence, models, and explanation	603.02.a--Know that observations and data are evidence on which to base scientific explanations and predictions 603.02.b--Know the differences between observations and inference 603.02.c--Use models to explain or demonstrate a concept
	d. Understand concepts of form and function	603.05.a--Understand that the shape or form of an object or system is frequently related to its use or function
2. Concepts of Scientific Inquiry	a. Understand scientific inquiry and develop critical thinking skills	604.01.c--Select and use appropriate tools and techniques to gather and display data
5. Interdependence of Organisms and Biological Change/Personal and Social Perspectives	b. Understand common environmental quality issues, both natural and human-induced	611.01.a--Identify issues for environmental studies
6. Earth and Space Systems	a. Understand scientific theories of origin and subsequent changes in the universe and Earth systems	609.01a--Investigate the interactions between the solid earth, oceans, atmosphere and organisms 609.01b--Know the water cycle and its relationship to weather and climate



Woods Creek Fen 5th Grade Scavenger Hunt!

Please respect any wildlife that you encounter (including insects!). You may touch the plants to feel their leaves and stems, but please do not pick any leaves or grasses.

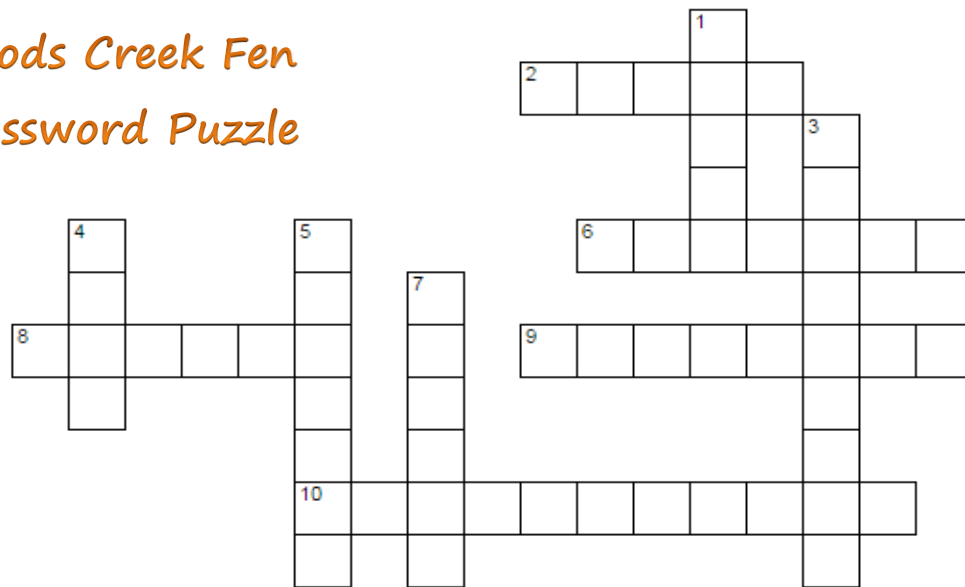
 <p>Shubby Cinquefoil (Potentilla)</p>	 <p>Hoary Willow</p>	 <p>Kelsey's Phlox</p>
 <p>Bog Birch</p>	 <p>Sedge (triangular stem)</p>	 <p>Grass (Hollow stem)</p>
 <p>Moose tracks</p>	 <p>Northern Harrier (or another raptor)</p>	 <p>Deer tracks</p>
 <p>An insect</p>	 <p>Meadow vole</p>	 <p>Porcupine (if you are lucky! But watch out!)</p>

Name: _____

Date: _____



Woods Creek Fen Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2 Hawks, like the Northern Harrier, fly over Woods Creek Fen in search of these critters for a tasty meal.
- 6 Woods Creek Fen provides a good habitat for wildlife because it has food, water, and _____.
- 8 Another word for “Bird of Prey”. They have hooked beaks and talons.
- 9 A shrub found at Woods Creek Fen that has round leaves with bumpy edges. Hint: Two words.
- 10 Fens are wetlands with peat soils that are fed by _____, unlike bogs that are fed by rainwater.

DOWN

- 1 This type of plant found at Woods Creek Fen has a triangular stem.
- 3 Woods creek Fen is part of the Teton River _____.
- 4 These soils are nutrient-rich and bouncy when you jump on them.
- 5 The water that passes through Woods Creek Fen comes from _____ that emerge just west of the town of Driggs.
- 7 A bushy plant found at Woods Creek Fen that has long, narrow leaves and moose like to eat it.

Draw your favorite part of the fen!



Woods Creek Fen Glossary Puzzle Answer Key

1. Fens are wetlands with peat soils that are fed by [groundwater], unlike bogs that are fed by rainwater.
2. Woods creek fen is part of the Teton River [Watershed].
3. The water that passes through Woods Creek Fen comes from [springs] that emerge just west of the town of Driggs.
4. Woods Creek Fen provides a good habitat for wildlife because it has food, water, and [shelter].
5. These soils are nutrient-rich and bouncy when you jump on them. [Peat]
6. This type of plant found at Woods Creek Fen has a triangular stem.[Sedge]
7. A bushy plant found at Woods Creek Fen that has long, narrow leaves and moose like to eat it. [Willow]
8. Another word for “Bird of Prey”. They have hooked beaks and talons. [Raptor]
9. Hawks, like the Northern Harrier, fly over Woods Creek Fen are in search of these critters for a tasty meal. [Voles]
10. A shrub found at Woods Creek Fen that has round leaves with bumpy edges. Hint: Two words. [Bog Birch]

