

WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL TRAVELING WETLAND TRUNK

This trunk is designed for easy preparation of presentations on wetlands and wetland values for children primarily in the fourth to eighth grade. Extensions are included for older and younger students. The amount of information you gather and present will depend on your available time, experience, and background.

*The goal is to make students aware of wetlands in their environment,
the role of wetlands in the landscape,
and to understand the importance of wetlands to wildlife **and** people.*

In other classrooms it has been discovered that students responded more readily to information about the wildlife found in wetlands, versus the wetland information itself. Take advantage of student's wildlife interest to focus their attention on wetlands. By all means, let them have fun while exploring and using the Wetland Trunk.

There are 7 main activities in the trunk and three videos. The activities are:

- ◆ Track Match
- ◆ Amphibia Trivia
- ◆ Puppets
- ◆ Wetland Types Puzzle
- ◆ Giant Floor Pond Puzzle
- ◆ Shorebird Migration Game
- ◆ Fun with Furs

The videos are:

- Fabulous Wetlands (with Bill Nye the Science Guy)
- Underwater Habitat
- Eyewitness - Pond and River

The videos can be used to introduce the topic of wetlands. The activities can then be used to go into more detail about wetland topics. Each activity can be used alone as a group activity, or more advanced students may be split

into small groups and activities used as separate stations. Older kids could present the puppet show to younger students, and contests can be made from Amphibia Trivia or putting the Giant Floor Puzzle together. The possibilities are only limited by your imagination and time. Additional resources are included such as the Wonders of Wetlands educator's guide and miscellaneous packets of information that can be used for further research or projects. Please feel free to use these materials in your classroom or photocopy them, but make sure they are returned to the Trunk or Educator's guide for the next user.

For the creative types out there - if you adapt an activity for younger or older children or just think of a better way to present a topic, please write your idea down and include it in the Teacher's guide to share with others. This is *your* Trunk and it should be useful to you and fun for the students.

****Please use the **checklist** and map to packing the Trunk in Section 6 to check the contents of the Trunk when it comes in to your hands and when it leaves. Cost will make it difficult to replace if items are not taken care of or returned - please take care of it as if you paid for it. This should be emphasized to the students. Many hands (we hope) will handle these things and the longer they last the more students will be able to learn about and experience the wonders of wetlands.****

This trunk should be self explanatory but if there are any questions regarding presentation, or the information or contents contained within, please contact Laura Hubers at Waubay National Wildlife Refuge - (605) 947-4521. Please let us know immediately if something is in need of mending or replacing so it does not get passed on to the next school or classroom this way.

>>Take time to fill out an **evaluation** at the end of your classroom use (Section 7). This will help us to continue to make this trunk useful and user-friendly. Any comments children make regarding the trunk would also be appreciated. Don't be afraid to criticize - it's the only way we can make a better product. Return envelopes are included for your convenience.

!!!Thank you for using the Wonderful Traveling Wetland Trunk!!!