

NATURE'S FILTER

SUMMARY

Students see the filtering ability of wetland mud by experimenting with different soil samples.

GRADE LEVEL: K-2

ACTIVITY DURATION: 1 hour (Preparation time additional 30 minutes)

SETTING: Classroom and Outdoor Laboratory

OBJECTIVES: This program is designed to use experimentation to demonstrate the filtering abilities of some soils. By the end of the program, students should have a better understanding of:

- Soil can actually clean water.
- Soil in wetlands can clean pollution from the water.
- The wetland plants can absorb pollution from out of water.

COOPERATIVE APPROACH: This program is designed to work along *A Model Watershed* and *How Wetlands Work* for full experience of why we need wetlands, how wetlands work to clean pollution, and how effective wetlands are at performing their job of cleansing. This program works well with the *Cave Boat Tour* by providing the students with a view of the groundwater they learned to protect.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: Wetlands are very important to helping clean water since they can filter out pollution in many ways, including by trapping pollution in soil and plants. Students who understand this will better appreciate the value of protecting wetlands.

EXTENSION:

STEM

The *Nature's Filter* program can be extended into a longer program in which principles of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are applied. By prefacing the program with *A Model Watershed* and then by *How Wetlands Work* program, students will experience why we need wetlands, how wetlands work to clean pollution, and how effective wetlands are at performing their job of cleansing.



VOCABULARY: Soil, Filter, Percolate