

WETLANDS

Wetland is an area in lowland which is stagnant with water.

Examples of wetlands:

- a) Bogs
- b) Swamps
- c) Mangrove forest



Hydrophyte or known as wetland plants or flora is a plant that grows in water.

There are 6 types of hydrophytes:

- a) Herbs - Royal fern, cardinal flower
- b) Grasses - Common red, giant cane
- c) Aquatic Herbs - Water lily, water lotus
- d) Shrubs - Blueberry, swamp rose, high bush
- e) Trees - Black gum, red mangrove
- f) Vines - Rattan, ground nut

Main functions of wetland plants:

- a) Medical purpose
- b) Maintain water quality by filtering out nutrients and sediments
- c) Preventing seaside land for erosion
- d) Provide burning wood, charcoal, and strong wood for building
- e) Alter toxic waste release by nearby factories
- f) Provide food, shelter, and breeding habitat

Importance of wetlands:

- a) Help to control flood
- b) Recycle soil nutrients
- c) Provide habitats of many fauna and flora
- d) Protect seaside land from erosion
- e) A rich source of timber
- f) Some plants are medicinal
- g) A tourist attraction spot
- h) A source of food and breeding of some species like birds, crabs, fish, and prawns

Features of wetlands:

- > Can be found in tropical area
- > Near a riverside or shallow water
- > The ground is often full of shallow water
- > Many wildlife adapts well to the brackish environment
- > Brackish water is from the river that is mixed with sea water

FAUNA / ANIMALS

IN WETLANDS

Fireflies

- > Can be clearly seen at night time
- > Stay and rest in the mangrove trees
- > Produce light at the end of their abdomen
- > They are actually beetles
- > Adult fireflies live less than a month



Mudskippers

- > Scientific name for this fish: *Amblyproctus*
- > Mostly seen in wetlands
- > Can move on land
- > Breathes through its gill and skin
- > Can keep enough amount of water in its neck which helps to obtain oxygen
- > It must return to the water after few minutes to breathe

The Little Egret

- > Scientific name for this bird: *Egretta Garzetta*
- > White in colour and has a small body
- > Eat small fish, frogs, and insects

The Great Egret

- > Scientific name for this bird: *Ardea Alba*
- > Larger than the little egret and has a long neck
- > Eat fish, frogs, small reptiles, mice, and other small animals
- > They nest in trees, near water and gather in groups called colonies, which may include other heron or egret species

Blue Fiddler Crab

- > May be tan (brownish), blue-green, turquoise, black, yellow or orange in colour
- > They will skip into the nearest hole to escape from predators
- > They dig a temporary hole
- > They eat algae, dried shrimp or krill

Mud Crabs

- > Known as mangrove crab
- > Known also as black crabs
- > People catch these crabs for food