**WETLAND HABITATS**

The following key chart should help your students understand wetland classification. Make a copy for each student and have them fill in the wetland type in this blank space.

**Introductions**

Wetland is a name used to describe area of land that is seasonally or permanently saturated by water. Wetlands are very important and valuable ecosystems that provide a wide variety of benefits to the environment and humans. Wetlands are home to a diverse array of plant and animal species, and play a crucial role in regulating water quality, climate, and ecosystems. Wetland areas are often rich in nutrients, providing a habitat for many types of wildlife. Wetlands also serve as a natural barrier against flooding, helping to regulate water levels and prevent erosion.

**Types of Wetlands**

- **Emergent Wetlands**: These are wetlands dominated by vegetation that grows above water, such as cattails or reeds.
- **Submerged Wetlands**: These are wetlands where the vegetation is completely submerged, such as seagrass beds.
- **Floodplain Wetlands**: These are wetlands located along the banks of rivers or streams, where the water level changes seasonally.
- **Riparian Wetlands**: These are wetlands found at the edges of streams and rivers, where the water supply is highly variable.
- **Swamp Wetlands**: These are wetlands where the water table is close to the surface and the vegetation is almost entirely submerged.
- **Saltwater Wetlands**: These are wetlands that are exposed to saltwater, such as estuaries.

**Wetland Types**

- **Salt Marshes**: Vegetation that grows above water, such as cattails or reeds.
- **Freshwater Marshes**: Vegetation that grows above water, such as cattails or reeds.
- **Aquatic Wetlands**: Vegetation that grows in or on the surface of the water, such as water lilies or lotus.
- **Submerged Wetlands**: Vegetation that grows completely submerged, such as seagrass beds.

**Wetland Uses**

- **Water Quality**: Wetlands act as natural filters, removing pollutants and nutrients from water bodies.
- **Wildlife Habitat**: Wetlands provide habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species.
- **Climate Regulation**: Wetlands help regulate water levels and prevent erosion.
- **Water Storage**: Wetlands store water during the rainy season and release it slowly during dry periods.

**Wetland Model**

Wetlands are critical for the survival of many species, and their protection is essential for maintaining healthy ecosystems. Wetlands are often referred to as the "lungs of the earth" because they help regulate the earth's climate and atmosphere. Wetlands are also important for their role in carbon sequestration, helping to combat climate change. Wetlands are threatened by a variety of factors, including habitat loss, pollution, and climate change.保護 wetlands: the importance of wetlands conservation. What is wetland conservation? Wetlands conservation is the practice of protecting and restoring wetlands to ensure their continued existence and function. Wetland conservation efforts can include the protection of wetland areas from development, the restoration of degraded wetlands, and the monitoring of wetland conditions. Wetland conservation is important for maintaining healthy ecosystems and ensuring the survival of many plant and animal species. Wetland conservation efforts can be supported through various means, including government programs, non-governmental organizations, and individual efforts. Wetland conservation is an essential part of protecting and preserving our natural environment for future generations.