# STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS

**BACK OF CARDS** 

## SUN

Source of energy and light; connected to all living things

### BLACK CAPPED CHICKADEE

Small seed-eater; nests in shrubs near water; eggs eaten by raccoon, blue-jay

# **SNAPPING TURTLE**

Communicates with all animals and plants in the wetland; eats minnows, crayfish, dragonflies, carrion

## WHITE BIRCH TREE

Grows along shore; roots hold soil; medicine tree: bark used for mukuks, canoes, wigwam; sacred tree



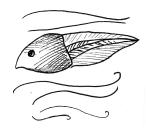
# DRAGONFLY NYMPH

Large insect found on bottom of pond; likes clean water; eats many other bugs in the pond



### LEOPARD FROG

Spotted yellow and green; eats mosquitos, blackflies; eaten by fox, raccoon, otter



### TOAD TADPOLE Black; grow quickly as water warms up; eat algae; eaten by fish, turtles



### WATER LILY

Fragrant flower; eaten by moose; medicine plant (root); nectar for bee

## CATTAIL

Grows along edge water; food for birds and beetles; home for blackbird and marsh wren

# STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS FRONT OF CARDS











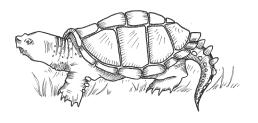
# MINNOW

Likes clean water: eats water plants; eaten by turtle, raccoon, otter

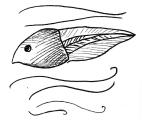


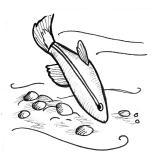
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## STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS BACK OF CARDS

# STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS FRONT OF CARDS



### **RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD**

First bird of the spring; eats flying insects and seeds; lives in cattail marsh; home for many animals



### **BLUE-JAY**

Alerts all animals to presence of danger; eats seeds, bugs and baby birds; eaten by fox; raccoon

RACCOON Nocturnal hunter; eats clams; crayfish; bird eggs; needs clean water to wash food



## MINK

Small and quick; eats frogs, snails, minnows, berries; eaten by wolf, otter

### MOOSE Largest mammal in wetland; eats water plants and lily roots; eaten by man and wolf

WATER

Must be clean and

source of life for all

animals and plants

flow slowly;



### BEAVER

Builds dams; eats poplar, birch; eaten by wolf; teaches us to be good parent

### BALSAM POPLAR

Grows along waterways; medicine (buds and bark); eaten by beaver; shades water

## MARSH WREN

Small bird; nests in cattails; eats flying insects and beetles; migrates in fall; alerts animals to danger













for turtle, frog

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# STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS

**BACK OF CARDS** 

BLACK BEAR

grubs, berries

# STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS FRONT OF CARDS



















### **BLACK ANT** Lives in soil around wetland; eats fruits, plants; stores food for winter; hard worker;

GREAT BLUE HERON

Tallest bird in wetland;

nests in dead trees;

eats frogs, minnows;

good hunter

## BARRED OWL

Lives in pines near wetland; hunts at night; eats mice, voles, rabbits, young birds

Knows all medicine plants

in wetland; eats ants,



# WIND

Brings fresh air to wetland plants and animals; helps move water; carries seeds and insects in air



## **GRAY WOLF**

Large hunter that eats small 4-legged animals, frogs, clams, snakes; needs clean water



# **RED SQUIRREL**

Chatty and quick; eats seeds, mushrooms, plants; stores food for winter; eaten by owl, fox, wolf



### BALD EAGLE

Messenger to all plants and animals; eats dead fish and cleans shore; lives in dead trees

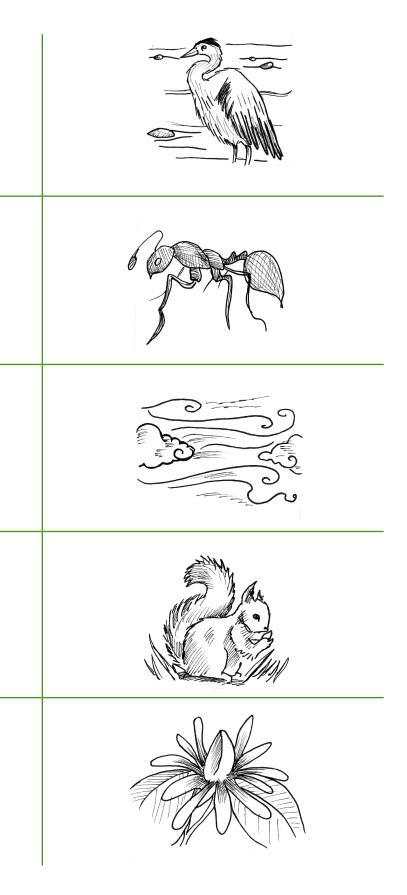
# SPICE BUSH

Shrub grows around wetland; berries eaten by mice, moose, squirrels, birds; medicine plant



## COTTONTAIL RABBIT

In meadows around wetlands; eats spice bush, blueberry, plants; eaten by fox, wolf, hawk; alert to danger



## STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS BACK OF CARDS

## STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS FRONT OF CARDS













### SWEET FLAG

GARTER SNAKE

wolf, mink

In meadows around

etlands; eats mice, frogs,

beetles; eaten by fox,

Grows along shoreline; medicine (rat root); eaten by moose, muskrat; needs clean water to grow



### RED MAPLE

First tree to wake up in spring; seeds eaten by squirrel, mice, birds; gives sap for maple syrup and medicine



### **BUNCHBERRY**

Grows around the wetland; small white flower and red berry; eaten by birds, mice; medicine (root)





# **BLUEBERRY**

Bushes grow around wetlands; berries eaten by many creatures; leaves and twigs are medicine



### POND SNAIL

In water; eats algae and dead plants; eaten by raccoon, mink, otter, fish; cleans the water



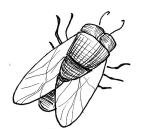
# OTTER Eats crayfish, snails, minnows,

tadpoles; teaches us to play and be joyful



### FINGERNAIL CLAM

Filters and cleans water in wetlands; eaten by raccoon, mink, turtle



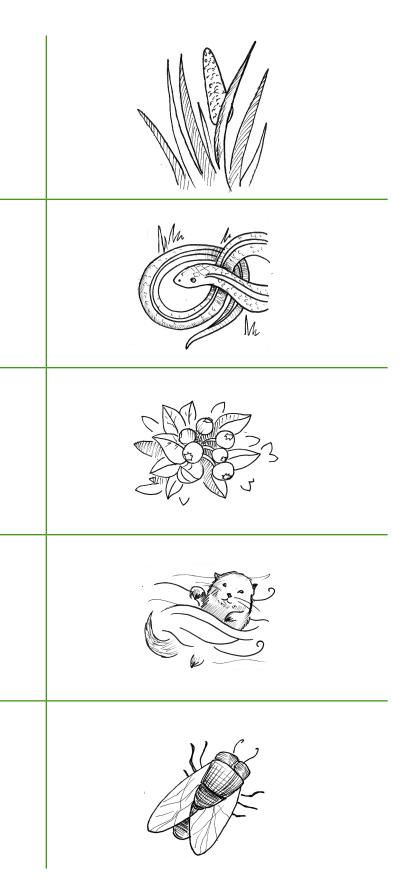
# BLACKFLY

Lays eggs in moving water; pollinates blueberries and other flowering plants; eaten by birds, frogs, turtles



## **MOSQUITO LARVA**

Live in calm water; food for fish, frogs, dragonfly nymphs, ducks; eat algae;



## STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS BACK OF CARDS



## PAINTED TURTLE

Eats bugs, tadpoles, mosquito larvae; basks on logs and rocks; needs clean water to live; lays eggs in gravel, sand



### BUMBLEBEE

Lives underground in meadow near wetland; pollinates flowers; makes honey; eaten by birds

### YELLOW-SPOTTED SALAMANDER



# WOOD DUCK

CRAYFISH

Nests in hollow trees wetland; eats water bugs, plants, tadpoles; ducklings eaten by pike, mink, fox



### Lives under logs and rocks near edge of wetland; eats worms, small insects,; eaten by mink;, fox, otter; rarely seen

### PORCUPINE

Lives in forest near wetlands; eats bark; eaten by fisher; teaches us patience and kindness

### **RED FOX**

Makes den and raises young near wetland; eats rabbits, mice, crayfish, clams, frogs; needs clean water

# STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.1 WETLAND NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS CARDS FRONT OF CARDS











# **BLACK ASH**

Lives in water around

rocks; eats minnows,

raccoons, mink, otter

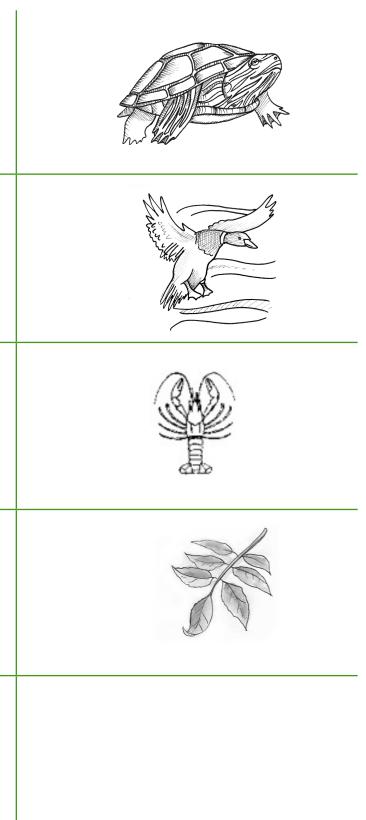
eaten by birds,

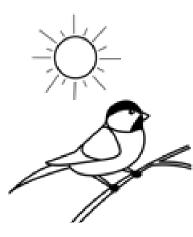
mosquito larvae, bugs;

Prefers wet places; grows slow; seeds eaten by squirrels, birds; used for baskets; branches for nesting



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# STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.4 ONE MORNING IN OUR WETLAND A LIVING DIORAMA 1/2

The sky in the east was beginning to lighten as beedabahn, the morning star guided the sun into the sky.

The world of the marsh was about to awake as each member of Creation joined together to greet the new day and to give thanks and gratefulness.

As the sun's early morning rays peaked over the horizon they touched the bark of a birch tree that grew along the shore of the marsh. The birch tree's bark glowed in the early morning light as the tree's cells stretched and warmed to the energy from the sun. The tree gently started to sway as a tiny breeze began to dance across the water surface of the marsh.

The water rippled as the breeze caressed it. The ripples seemed to wake up some of the water creatures who lived within the wetland

A dragonfly nymph scurried along the bottom of the pond, looking for some shelter from the light. A school of minnows scooted along the sunken log searching for bits of breakfast. The little black toad tadpoles wriggled in the shallows near the edge of the pond. A leopard frog peeked out from under a lily pad. It quietly hopped up onto the lily pad, and began to sing a morning song.

From the cattail plants the male red-winged blackbirds opened their eyes and began to stir. They perched on the stems of the cattails and began to sing their welcoming song of thanksgiving.

A chickadee called a good morning to all of Creation from the upper branches of the birch tree as it searched for seeds in the peeled bark.

The raccoon had been out hunting all night long and it was getting tired.

As the early morning sun touched the fur on its back, the raccoon turned to face the sun, blinked its eyes, and

walked into the denser trees around the wetland, looking for a hollow tree to sleep within.

A large moose carefully walked down from the forest to the edge of the wetland, looking for a

morning drink. As the sun's rays touched its head, the moose called out a greeting to the sun and to all other creatures in the neighbourhood. Then the moose put its nose deep into the clean cool water of the pond and began to quench its thirst.

The noisy bluejays awoke and flew over the water and the trees, calling out to everything in their loud voices as

they showed their gratitude for another day. They landed near the moose and watched as it stood in the shallow edge of the pond.

The sound of the moose having a

drink raised the curiosity of the little mink that lived under the tree roots near the edge of the pond. The mink slipped out of its den and began to journey around its territory, sniffing and watching for signs of breakfast. It looked up at the morning light and gave a guiet cry of thanks

Deeper in the pond the beaver family had just finished their work on a poplar tree and as the early morning sun shone its rays onto the pond surface, the beavers swam back to their lodge to sleep, eat and clean their fur. The young kits mewed a hello to the sun before they disappeared under the water, smacking their tails to all.

As the rays of the rising sun reached the old tree trunk that had fallen into the pond, an old snapping turtle climbed





up onto the trunk to bask in the sun. Old turtle turned its head towards the rising sun and seemed to smile in gratitude for the return of the warmth the sun provided so the turtle would be able to move around quickly enough to catch its morning food.

In the thicket by the edge of the pond, the little warblers and wrens stirred from their nests. Each one raised its voice in a chorus of song as it flew up into the morning sky, dancing in the tiny breeze.

From the top of the dead elm tree the heron stretched its long neck and legs. It soared out over the pond squawking a hello to everything in the wetland and

then landed in the shallows, looking for some minnows for its breakfast.

Mukwa, the black bear ambled down from the forest to drink at the pond, growling and grunting a morning greeting before turning over the large stones and rocks searching for ants and grubs.



At the far edge of the pond the ghostly shape of a barred owl could be seen as it climbed close to the trunk of the cedar tree. With a who-who-who-who the owl cuddled up to the trunk of the tree along a wide branch, preparing for a long sleep while the sun walked across the sky.

From behind the cedar tree, a grey and brown shape appeared as if by magic as the wolf padded on silent feet. It sat down under the tree and peered down at the pond. Then it raised its voice in a single howl in honour of the new day, and it was gone, disappearing into the shadows behind the cedars.



# STUDENT WORKSHEET / ACTIVITY 4.4 ONE MORNING IN OUR WETLAND A LIVING DIORAMA 2/2

The little red squirrel ran here and there through the branches of the shrubs and trees along the edge of the wetland, chattering to one and all as it searched for seeds and nuts.

The front door opened on the little house that sat just up in the woods above the pond and the wetland. From the

house came the woman and the man and their two children. They carried tobacco with them and their smudge bowl. When they arrived at the edge of the water, their voices and thoughts joined with those of the plants and animals as everything and everyone spoke the words of greeting and



gratefulness for a new day and a new beginning.

The sun seemed to shine a little brighter. High up in the sky, an eagle soared - watching, listening, and remembering. The eagle circled higher and higher, called out once, and disappeared into the bright blue sky as it took its message to the Creator - another beautiful day on Turtle Island had beaun.

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