

Marsh Life Links

Trace how rain and marsh features meet living things' needs.

2.12.A "describe how the physical characteristics of environments, including the amount of rainfall, support plants and animals within an ecosystem;"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words that tell about rain or the marsh's physical features. Circle the plants or animals those features help, so you can see how the marsh supports life.

Life in a Marsh

- ① A marsh is a wet place with shallow water, muddy soil, and many grasses. Rain fills the marsh and keeps its soil wet. Cattails grow there because their roots can take in water from the soft, wet ground.
- ② The tall cattails give red-winged blackbirds places to build nests. Frogs hide among the grasses and lay eggs in the shallow water. Insects use the plants for food, and frogs and birds eat many insects.
- ③ If a marsh gets much less rain, its water may become too low. Some cattails may dry out, so birds may lose nesting places. Fewer wet plants can mean fewer insects, food for frogs and birds.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

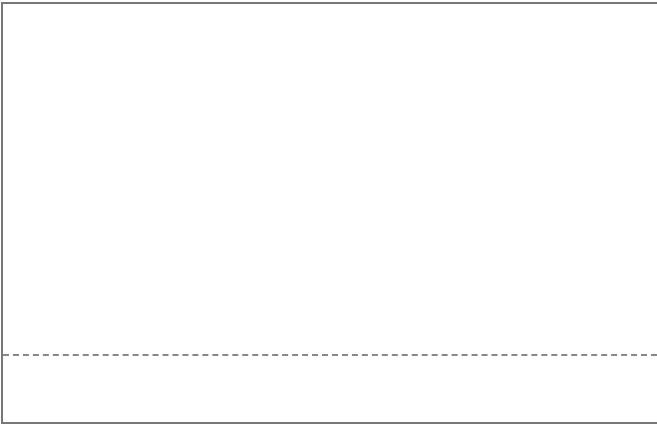
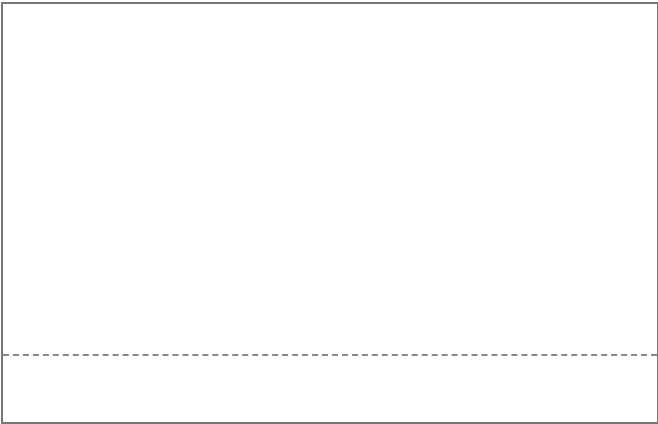
1 How does rain help cattails grow in the marsh?

2 How do shallow water and grasses support frogs?

3 What could happen to birds if the marsh gets much less rain? Use details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

In two panels, draw a pond after plenty of rain and after very little rain. Label one physical feature, one plant, and one animal in each panel, then write one sentence explaining how the rainfall change affects the animal.

	
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PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words that tell about rain or the marsh's physical features. Circle the plants or animals those features help, so you can see how the marsh supports life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does rain help cattails grow in the marsh?	Rain fills the marsh and keeps the soil wet, so cattail roots can take in water.
2	How do shallow water and grasses support frogs?	Frogs lay eggs in shallow water and hide among the grasses.
3	What could happen to birds if the marsh gets much less rain? Use details from the passage.	Cattails may dry out, so birds may lose nesting places. There may also be fewer insects for food.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Panel 1 labels: deep water, lily pads, fish. Panel 2 labels: small pond, fewer lily pads, fish. With very little rain, the pond has less water and fewer lily pads, so the fish have less shelter.

Accept answers that connect rainfall or a physical feature to a specific plant or animal need. For the open task, accept reasonable ecosystem examples when the drawing, labels, and sentence show a clear cause-and-effect link.