

# Wetland Wheel

Grade 6 Activity. Grade 7 supplemental

Use this to identify plants on a field trip to Ballona Wetlands. You will need to review to the students the characteristics of plants. The species used here can be found at Ballona Wetlands.

## Concepts

- Dichotomous keys are useful tools in classifying plants.
- The Wetland Wheel is a modified version of this.

## Objectives

Students will:

- Practice making observations and describing them.
- Use a different method of classifying items.
- Learn to recognize at least a few plants native to coastal habitats (which will help them to recognize ecosystems).

## Duration

One hour to assemble; as much time as desired at the wetlands.

## Method

Use the Wetland Wheel to identify and classify wetland plants.

## California Science Content Standards 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

Ecology 5:

- c. Populations of organisms can be categorized by the functions they serve in an ecosystem.
- d. Different kinds of organisms may play similar ecological roles in similar biomes.
- e. The number and types of organisms an ecosystem can support depends on the resources available and on abiotic factors, such as quantities of light and water, a range of temperatures, and soil composition.

## Materials

1. Copies of the wheel pieces and instructions
2. Scissors
3. Paper fasteners
4. Paste or glue sticks
5. [Optional] contact paper (to "lamine" each piece of the wheel)

## Preparation

Make photocopies of the 3 handouts for each student. Collect materials that students will not provide.

## Procedure

Instruct the students on how to construct a Wetland Wheel.

## How to Make A Wetland Wheel:

1. Glue the direction piece to a manila folder or piece of tagboard; cut out through all thicknesses, cutting along the solid outline [Cover it with contact paper, both sides]. Cut out the pie-shaped piece to make a window.
2. Carefully cut out each wheel along the solid outline. [Cover this and each of the other pieces with contact paper, both sides.]
3. Align the smaller wheels with the large wheels so that the edge of the smaller wheel lines up with the inside circle (line) on the large wheel. Poke a small hole through the center of both wheels at once with the paper fastener.
4. Now add the direction piece with the window in it. The top edge of the large wheel should fit just behind the top edge of the window. Remove the paper fastener. Keeping the direction piece flat, poke a hole through the center dot to match the holes in the wheel.
5. Fasten the paper fastener again, and your Wetland Wheel is ready to use!

## Extension

On a visit to Ballona Wetlands have the students use the Wetland Wheel to identify native plants.

### Additional resources

Plants of Ballona Wetlands: [www.ballonafriends.org/plants](http://www.ballonafriends.org/plants)

Coastal Sage: [www.ballonafriends.org/coastal\\_sage\\_scrub](http://www.ballonafriends.org/coastal_sage_scrub)

Ballona Wetlands: [www.csupomona.edu](http://www.csupomona.edu)

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