Wetland Life Cycles

Ways to Extend the Learning

- Complete the post activity below.

- Look up pictures of wetlands in books or online.

- On a piece of paper have the students draw a life cycle of a familiar plant or animals such as a family pet, themselves, a favorite animal or plant.

- Role-play being another animal from birth to adulthood.

- Watch a video of a dragonfly emerging from its exoskeleton. Search "Dragonfly emerging" on the internet.

- Go outside and visit a wetland. Audubon Community Nature Center has a lot of wetland habitat.

- Go outside to look and listen for plants and animals in different stages of their lifecycle. A few examples for spring are listed below.

  o Look for plants spouting and starting to grow.

  o Listen for frogs calling.

  o Look for frog eggs in still, shallow bodies of water.

  o Look for turtles basking on logs on warm sunny days. They begin to lay eggs in mid- to late-spring.

> **New York State Science Learning Standards**
>
> **3-LS1-1** – Develop models to describe that organisms have unique and diverse life cycles but all have in common birth, growth, reproduction and death.
>
> This program also addresses LS1.B.
>
> **Objective of the Program**
>
> Students will explore the life cycles of animals that live in local wetlands. Some animals go through metamorphosis and some do not.

Suggested Books for Students

- *Are you a Dragonfly?* by Judy Allen. This K – 3 grade level book explores traits of dragonflies and how they change throughout their life cycles.

- *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs and Leaping Frogs* by Anthony D. Fredericks. This book explores several wetland creatures, providing accurate science content with a rhyming cadence.

- *Salamander Dance* by David Fitz Simmons. This book explores life in the vernal pool and follows the life of the Spotted Salamander.
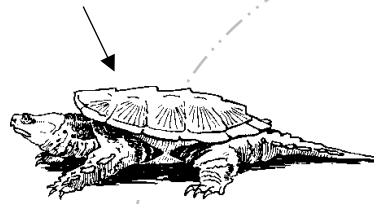
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Post-visit Activity

Today you learned about life cycles in a wetland.

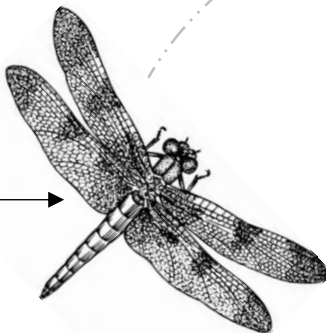Draw the life cycles of the following animals. Label each stage.
Each one is started for you.

Adult

Snapping Turtle Life Cycle

Adult

Dragonfly Life Cycle