

Progress Monitoring Probe 13

Swamps

In movies, swamps are often shown as dark, smelly places.	10
They are filled with scary creatures. Viewers are afraid to think what might be hiding in the dark waters. In fact, swamps are important natural areas. They are home to many plants and animals, and they are often rich in natural resources.	21
Swamps differ in two major ways from other wetlands. First, swamps are covered by trees. Marshes, on the other hand, have mostly grasses. Second, swamps have mineral-rich waters.	33
Another type of wetland, called a bog, is formed by rainwater, which has few minerals.	43
Freshwater swamps are found in low-lying areas around rivers. The soggy places might be in an old river channel or in an oxbow lake formed by a curve in the river. Because swamp soil does not drain well, the water stays in place. As a result, these areas have water standing on them for much of the year. Fish, frogs, and alligators make their home in the swamp's waters.	52
Deer, raccoons, and other small animals and birds find food and shelter in the swamp. There are many swamps in the United States. Some of the largest ones are found in the southern states.	62
Saltwater swamps are formed by flooding or draining of seawater in flat coastal areas. Although most plants won't grow in the salty water, mangrove trees thrive. Some animals that do not like salt water live in these swamps. For example, green monkeys live in the tops of the mangrove trees. They never touch the water! Crabs, pelicans, and other sea animals live there, too. Saltwater swamps often form where large rivers meet the ocean. Some of these can be found in Asia, Africa, and South America.	73
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Swamps (Continued)

Along with plants and animals, coal is a resource found in some swamps. Plants from millions of years ago decayed and formed the coal. Today, people mine the coal and use it as fuel.	297
Swamps may not seem appealing at first glance. But by looking closer, you can find many things to like about this interesting natural area.	307
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Total words: _____ errors: _____ = words correct: _____

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