

Thank you for visiting the pathway to water quality at the Indiana State Fair.
Additional information is available at
<http://www.iaswcd.org/Pathway.htm>

Wetlands Hopscotch

(Designed for all ages)

Background:

Wetlands are an important factor to insure the success of bird migration. Ponds, lakes and marshes provide food and shelter for traveling birds . Without the wetlands birds would not have the energy to make the trek from areas as far south as Panama in the case of the Belted Kingfisher. At the time of the European settlement of the United States there were 215 million acres of wetlands. Today there are less than 100 million. Besides providing habitats for waterfowl, wetlands help relieve flooding, filter pollutants and are an integral part of the biosphere.

Purpose:

This activity is designed to increase the awareness for the need to protect our wetlands as a habitat for migrating waterfowl. And the importance wetlands play in cleaning our water.

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, the participant will:

1. Become a bird migrating from Indiana to Florida. They should understand the hardship for the birds when there are less wetlands. Each hopscotch area represents one trip to or from Florida for the bird.
2. The activity demonstrates the dependence of wetlands for migrating birds.
3. Human actions can impact the wetlands.

Materials: (at Pathway – 5 hopscotch rugs and signs)
Other sites – make your own squares or use sidewalk chalk. You only need one set to do the activity. The 5 rugs used at the State Fair was to make the lines go faster instead of having to use the same rug and add items 5 times.

Procedure:

1. Participants will start at # 1, and travel through the 5 hopscotch rugs which will represent trips to and from Florida on their migration route.
2. Have the participants make believe that they are birds that are going to fly to Florida for the winter and then return back to Indiana. They are going to fly from

one end of the hopscotch course to the other. Each square is a wetland along their migration route. (If you wish you can discuss with them what state they might be in) Every participant will have the opportunity to "migrate" across the hopscotch course.

3. All participants should be successful at the first migration hopscotch rug.

At hopscotch rug # 2; #3; #4; #5 they will encounter new obstacles (They are marked with an X and information on what happen to the wetland since the duck last flew through it will be on the signs next to the rug.) Or if you just have one hopscotch area at your sit e- just keep adding items to the squares each rotation of the participants.

If they stop on a marked square, it means they died and they will have to start over.

Questions to ask the participants if time:

1. Explain how this activity represents migration. Have them look at the migration routes on the signs in the bridge.

2. Why is it important to save wetlands?

3. How do migrating birds depend on wetlands during migration?

(This portion is if you just use one hopscotch with a group not at the pathway to water quality – Indiana State Fair – the pathway exhibit is designed so that you don't have to place anything on the hopscotch area – is should be marked with a sign Velcro to the rug) Now tell the students that someone wants to build a shopping center and you will need to destroy two of the wetlands in order to build it. Put an X on two of the squares. Allow the students to migrate again. They may not touch any of the squares that have an X in them. If they do, they will die. After all of the students have had an opportunity to go through destroy two more wetlands and have the students "migrate" again. Repeat this procedure until so many wetlands are destroyed that they are too far apart for the students to jump from one to another.) You can also remove items after so many attempts – to show restoration projects that are improving wetland habitat.

You can also add in wetland restoration projects and bring some of the wetland areas back, as we are seeing numerous wetland restoration projects taking place.

Materials: Sidewalk chalk or hopscotch rug and Items to mark the areas during the activity so they have to "miss" that wetland on their journey.

Footnote:

Activity adapted from "Wetlands/Migration" by Stephen T. Ferguson; Williams/Cone, Topsham ME

MAKE YOUR OWN - HOPSCOTCH CARPET SQUARES

Supplies:

- 10 carpet squares (approx. 10-inch x 12-inch) from sample books
- Rubber shelf liner cut into 10 squares that match size of carpet squares
- Glue
- Acrylic paint and paintbrushes

Directions:

1. Glue rubber shelf liner pieces onto the back side of the carpet squares. This prevents the carpet squares from slipping around.
2. Paint numbers 1 - 10 on top of each of the squares. Let dry.
3. Set on floor in hopscotch pattern. Hop away!

Hopscotch Carpet (from Painted House-Debbie Travis)

Tools and Materials Needed

Chalk

Masking tape

Latex paint (2 colours)

Artist's brush (1/2" flat brush)

Small carpet

Getting Started

1. Mask out the hopscotch design with tape.
2. Trace the masking tape design with chalk, onto the carpet.
3. Remove the masking tape.
4. Paint the chalked lines with acrylic paint. We chose red for the hopscotch lines. Run the brush back and forth over the line to allow the paint to seep into the carpet pile.
5. Allow the paint to dry.
6. Rub out chalk lines.
7. Paint in the numbers using another colour of latex, we chose blue. Let dry.

On sidewalk or other surface outside.

You can also draw squares with sidewalk chalk.

As you do the activity you can have one set hopscotch squares and have one line –

as you go through each year you add X spots that they can not hopscotch onto.