

## A Day at the Salt Marsh Earthcache

Difficulty: 1

Terrain: 1.5

Coordinates: N     °     ′     ″; W     °     ′     ″

Marshes are one of the most important habitats on the planet! So much grass grows there that the only habitats on earth that produce more plant material per acre than marshes are rainforests!

This grass is very important for life in the ocean. When it dies, the tide carries it into the ocean where its nutrients support a variety of food chains. Many ocean animals would not be able to survive without the marsh grass food for them or the animals they eat.

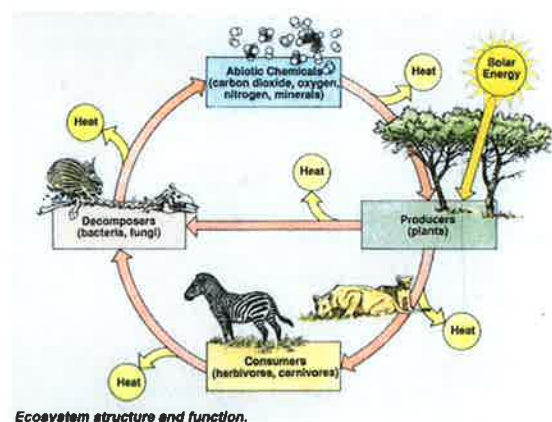
Salt marshes are also safe nursery grounds for many young sea animals. The plants and grass provide food and a place to hide from predators (bigger animals that want to eat them). Almost all animals that we eat as seafood (shrimp, grouper, and flounder) depend on the salt marsh for their babies to grow. Without the salt marsh providing a safe nursery, we wouldn't have seafood to eat.

The salt marsh grasses slow down waves, which helps control floods during hurricanes and other storms. Salt marsh mud soaks up chemicals in the water and the marsh grass catches litter. This helps the ocean to be cleaner because not as much pollution reaches it. Salt marshes are not only important to fish and crabs, they are also important to birds. Many migrating birds depend on salt marshes as a resting area and a place to eat while on their long journey.

([www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ForCreativeMinds/Marsh\\_FCM.pdf](http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/ForCreativeMinds/Marsh_FCM.pdf))

To gain credit for this Earthcache, you must perform and answer the following items. Any papers turned in without the following tasks completed will receive an F. Please turn your answers in to your teacher. Photos can be printed or emailed to your teacher.

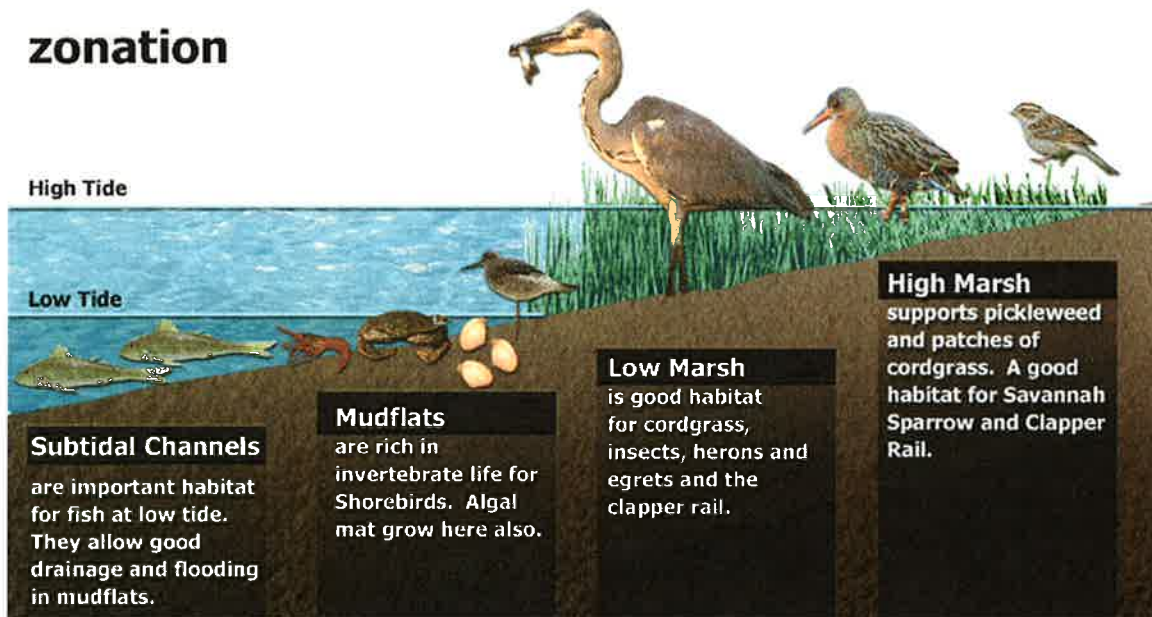
1. Travel to the posted coordinates and take a photo of yourself showing the salt marsh in the background.
2. Being VERY careful not to go into the mud, take pictures of any animals you can find (sea, land, air).
3. Answer the questions on the attached sheet.



A Day at the Salt Marsh  
Earthcache  
LOG SHEET

1. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Time of Day: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Was the tide at low tide, high tide, coming in, or going out? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What sea creatures did you see? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What land animals did you see? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What birds did you see? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe the grass at the salt marsh at the time you were there. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## zonation



## IDEAS FOR AGE GROUPS

For young children: Have them draw what they see and tell the class about what they saw. Have parents take their picture.

For middle children: Have them fill out the form provided or a similar one.

For older children: Have them write a paper about their experience that includes the items on the form provided.

