Wetland wildlife cards

- To make the cards, cut the line across the width of your paper then fold each half in half again so you end up with a picture on one side and the information on the other. Stick the two sides together with glue.

Grey heron

Diet: Fish, small birds such as ducklings, small mammals and amphibians

Wetland adaptations: Long neck allows it to get to its prey beneath the water

Classification: Vertebrate - Bird

Habitat: Ponds, lakes, rivers and estuaries

Additional information: Stands stock still quietly waiting for its prey

Cut

Kingfisher

Diet: Fish, invertebrates, amphibians

Wetland adaptations: Their eyes have adapted to make prey look closer to the surface and they have a special membrane to protect their eyes when they hit the water

Classification: Vertebrate - Bird

Habitat: Lakes, streams, rivers and canals

Additional information: They dig nest tunnels in vertical, sandy river banks

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Stickleback

Diet: Insects, crustaceans, tadpoles and smaller fish

Wetland adaptations: Some sticklebacks have adapted to be able to cope with both fresh and saltwater meaning they can live in both rivers and the sea

Classification: Vertebrate - Fish

Habitat: Ponds, lakes, ditches and rivers

Did you know? The male develops a bright red throat and belly and performs a courtship dance to attract a mate. The male also builds and protects the nest

Cut

Cut

Fold

Eel

Diet: Plants, dead animals, fish eggs, invertebrates and other fish

Wetland adaptations: Long, narrow body enables it to get into crevices

Classification: Vertebrate - Fish

Habitat: Rivers and ditches

Did you know? Adult eels migrate 3,000 miles (4,800 km) to the Sargasso Sea to spawn. It then takes the young eels two or three years to drift back to their homes here in the UK

Fold

Cut

Cut

Smooth newt

Diet: Insects, caterpillars, worms and slugs while on land; crustaceans, molluscs and tadpoles when in the water

Wetland adaptations: Can breathe through their skin

Classification: Vertebrate - Amphibian

Habitat: Ponds in spring; woodland, grassland, hedgerows and marshes in summer and autumn; hibernates underground, among tree roots and under rocks and logs over winter

Did you know? Their body gives out a poisonous fluid when they feel threatened

Fold

Common frog

Diet: Invertebrates and smaller amphibians

Wetland adaptations: Eyes are positioned on top of the head allowing the frog to see whilst its body is under the water

Classification: Vertebrate - Amphibian

Habitat: Ponds during the spring; woodland, gardens, hedgerows and grassland in summer and autumn; hibernate in pond mud or under log piles in winter

Did you know? Frogs hop whereas toads crawl

Fold

Common toad

Diet: Insects, spiders, slugs and worms

Wetland adaptations: Slightly webbed back feet help them to swim

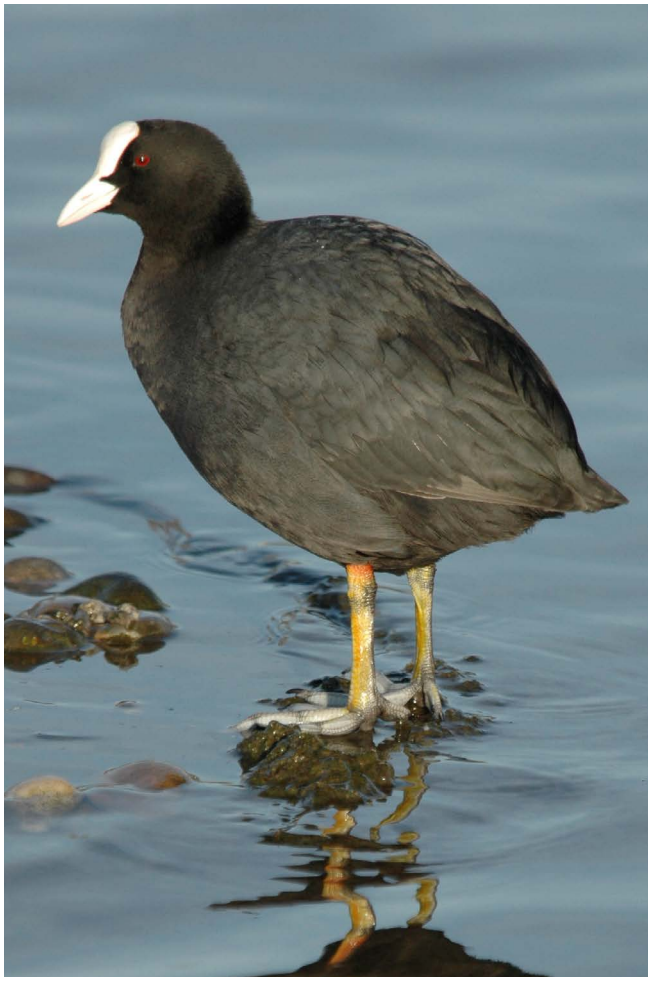
Classification: Vertebrate - Amphibian

Habitat: Ponds in spring (prefer larger, deeper ponds than frogs); woodland, gardens, hedgerows and grassland in summer and autumn; hibernate under log piles, stones or in crevices over winter

Did you know? Toads usually have dry bumpy skin whilst frogs usually have moist slimy skin

Cut

Cut



Fold

Coot

Diet: Plants, seeds, snails and insects

Wetland adaptations: Flaps of skin on the toes act in the same way as webbed feet when swimming and stop them from sinking in mud

Classification: Vertebrate - Bird

Habitat: Lakes, ponds and rivers

Did you know? The white part on the front of its head gave rise to the phrase “as bald as a coot”

Grey heron

Diet: Fish, small birds such as ducklings, small mammals and amphibians

Wetland adaptations: Long neck allows it to get to its prey beneath the water

Classification: Vertebrate - Bird

Habitat: Ponds, lakes, rivers and estuaries

Did you know? Herons can stand absolutely still waiting for their prey

Kingfisher

Diet: Fish, invertebrates, amphibians

Wetland adaptations: Their eyes have adapted to make prey look closer to the surface and they have a special membrane to protect their eyes when they hit the water

Classification: Vertebrate - Bird

Habitat: Lakes, streams, rivers and canals

Did you know? They dig nest tunnels in vertical, sandy river banks

Fold

Cut

Daubenton's bat

Diet: Insects.

Wetland adaptations: Can use its feet and tail to scoop up insects from the water's surface

Classification: Vertebrate - Mammal

Habitat: Woodland close to ponds and lakes

Did you know? These bats are often called 'water bats' because they feed so often over water

Cut

Fold

Water vole

Diet: Plants

Wetland adaptations: Waterproof fur

Classification: Vertebrate - Mammal

Habitat: Rivers, streams, ditches, ponds, lakes, marshes, reedbeds

Did you know? Despite being sometimes referred to as a 'Water Rat', there is no such thing - there are brown rats, black rats and water voles

Fold

Otter

Diet: Fish, waterbirds, amphibians and crustaceans

Wetland adaptations: Webbed feet; dense fur to keep them warm; can close their ears and nose when underwater

Classification: Vertebrate - Mammal

Habitat: Lakes, rivers, streams, coasts

Did you know? After disappearing from large parts of the UK numbers are growing due to improved water quality

Cut

Cut

Fold

Grass snake

Diet: Amphibians, fish, small mammals and birds

Wetland adaptations: Have developed very strong swimming technique

Classification: Vertebrate - Reptile

Habitat: Ponds, lakes, grassland, woodland

Did you know? Grass snakes are Britain's largest reptile

Fold

Pond skater

Diet: Small insects

Wetland adaptations: Have water-repellent hairs on the bottom of their feet, enabling them to walk on the surface film of the water. They hunt by detecting vibrations in this film.

Classification: Invertebrate - Insect

Habitat: Ponds, lakes, ditches and slow-flowing rivers

Did you know? Pond skaters can actually skate, jump and fly

Cut

Cut

Daphnia (water flea)

Diet: Plants, bacteria

Wetland adaptations: Antennae have developed for use in swimming

Classification: Invertebrate - Crustacean

Habitat: Lakes and ponds

Did you know? They are transparent. You can even see their heart beating inside them.

Fold

Fold

Cut

Grayling

Diet: Insects, spiders, crustaceans, molluscs, and smaller fishes

Wetland adaptations: One of the most streamlined fish, enabling it to swim faster

Classification: Vertebrate - Fish

Habitat: Fast, clean rivers near the source

Did you know? Known as the 'lady of the stream' due to its brightly coloured dorsal fin.

Cut

Fold

Water hoglouse

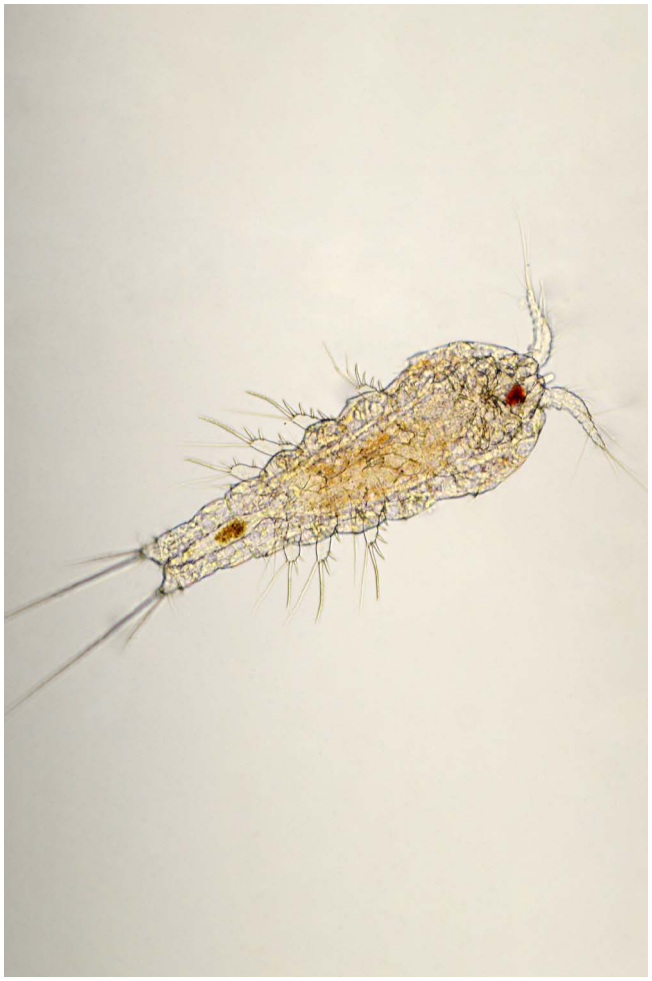
Diet: Decaying animals and plants

Wetland adaptations: Its gills are at the back of its body, allowing it to breathe when its head is buried in mud.

Classification: Invertebrate - Crustacean

Habitat: Ponds and ditches

Did you know? The water hoglouse is closely related to the woodlouse



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Cyclops

Diet: Algae, decaying animals

Wetland adaptations: Bullet-shaped body allows fast change of direction

Classification: Invertebrate - Crustacean

Habitat: Ponds, lakes and slow-flowing rivers and streams

Did you know? They only have one eye

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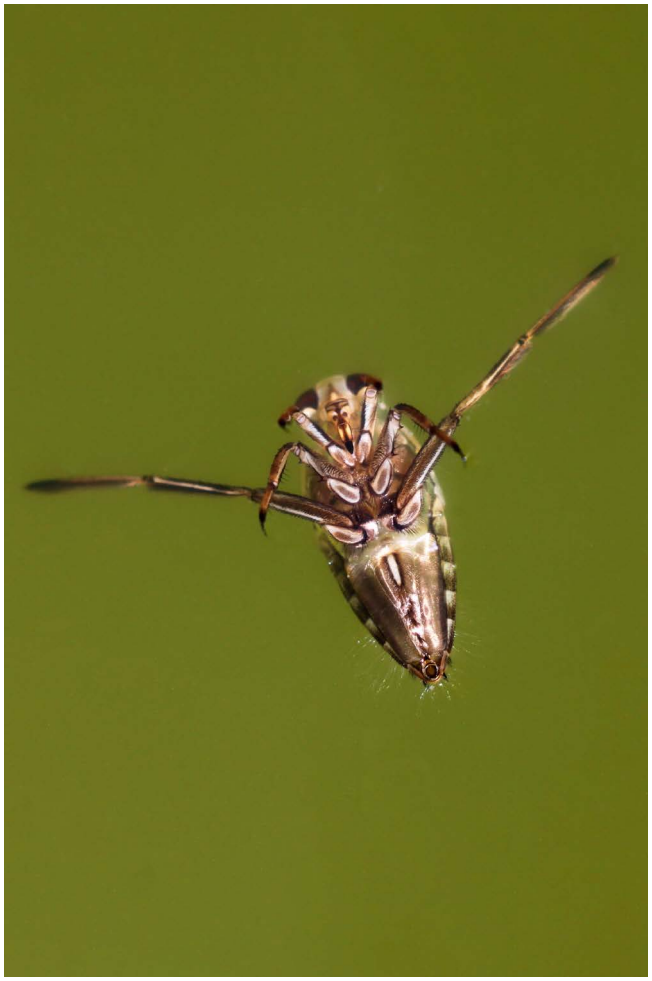

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Greater water boatman

Diet: Invertebrates, tadpoles and small fish

Wetland adaptations: Hind legs have developed into paddle shapes to aid swimming

Classification: Invertebrate - Insect

Habitat: Ponds, ditches and canals

Did you know? The greater water boatman can trap air underneath its wing cases so it can breathe under water

Fold

Cut

Dragonfly

Diet: Small insects

Wetland adaptations: Bullet-shaped body allows fast change of direction

Classification: Invertebrate - Insect

Habitat: Ponds, lakes, canals and ditches

Did you know? Dragonflies have been around for 300 million years

Cut

Fold

Ramshorn snail

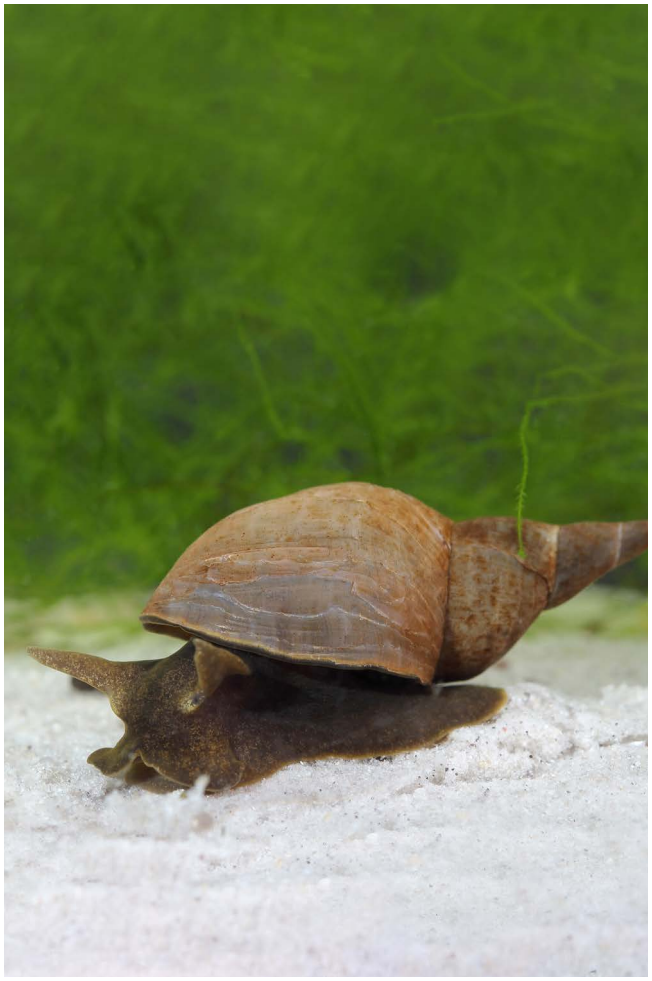
Diet: Plants

Wetland adaptations: Can trap and store air inside their shells

Classification: Invertebrate - Mollusc

Habitat: Ponds

Did you know? Their name comes from the shape of their shell which resembles a ram's horn



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Pond snail

Diet: Plants

Wetland adaptations: Have a respiratory tube that acts like a snorkel so they can breathe without coming to the surface

Classification: Invertebrate - Mollusc

Habitat: Rivers, lakes and ponds

Did you know? It is thought to have brilliant learning abilities and the snail's memory has been widely studied by scientists

Cut

Fold

Freshwater limpet

Diet: Plants

Wetland adaptations: Can cling on to rocks so doesn't get taken by the current

Classification: Invertebrate - Mollusc

Habitat: Rivers, ponds, lakes

Did you know? Although called limpets, they are actually in the same family as ramshorn snails

Fold

Cut

Sludge worm

Diet: Bacteria

Wetland adaptations: Can breathe through their skin.

Classification: Invertebrate - Worm

Habitat: Ponds, lakes, rivers

Did you know? They can survive in heavily polluted water

Cut

Fold

Leech

Diet: Fish, freshwater snails, tadpoles, worms

Wetland adaptations: Can breathe through their bodies

Classification: Invertebrate - Worm

Habitat: Ponds and streams

Did you know? Many leeches feed on the blood of other animals (without killing them)

Fold

Water spider

Diet: Insects, crustaceans, tadpoles and smaller fish

Wetland adaptations: Traps air in the hairs on its body, which it takes down to fill a 'diving bell' web

Classification: Invertebrate - Arachnid

Habitat: Ponds, lakes, very slow-flowing streams

Did you know? The water spider is the only spider in the world that spends its life under water

Cut

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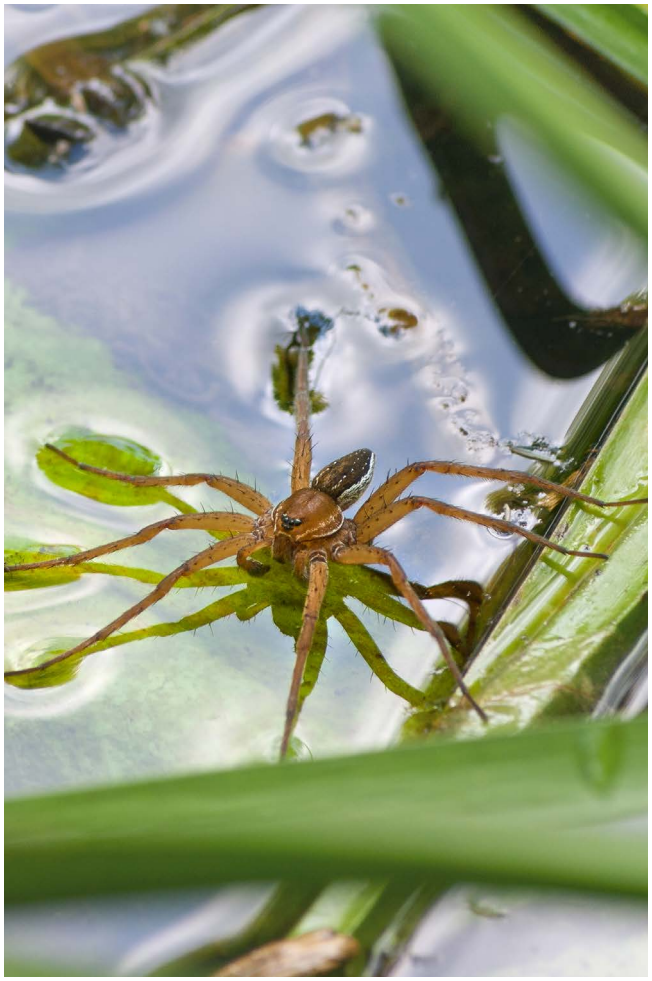

Great raft spider

Diet: Invertebrates, small fish, water spiders

Wetland adaptations: Hairy legs enable them to walk on the surface of the water

Classification: Invertebrate - Arachnid

Habitat: Ponds, ditches, bogs

Did you know? Great raft spiders have been known to hunt underwater by running down the stems of plants to reach their prey

Fold