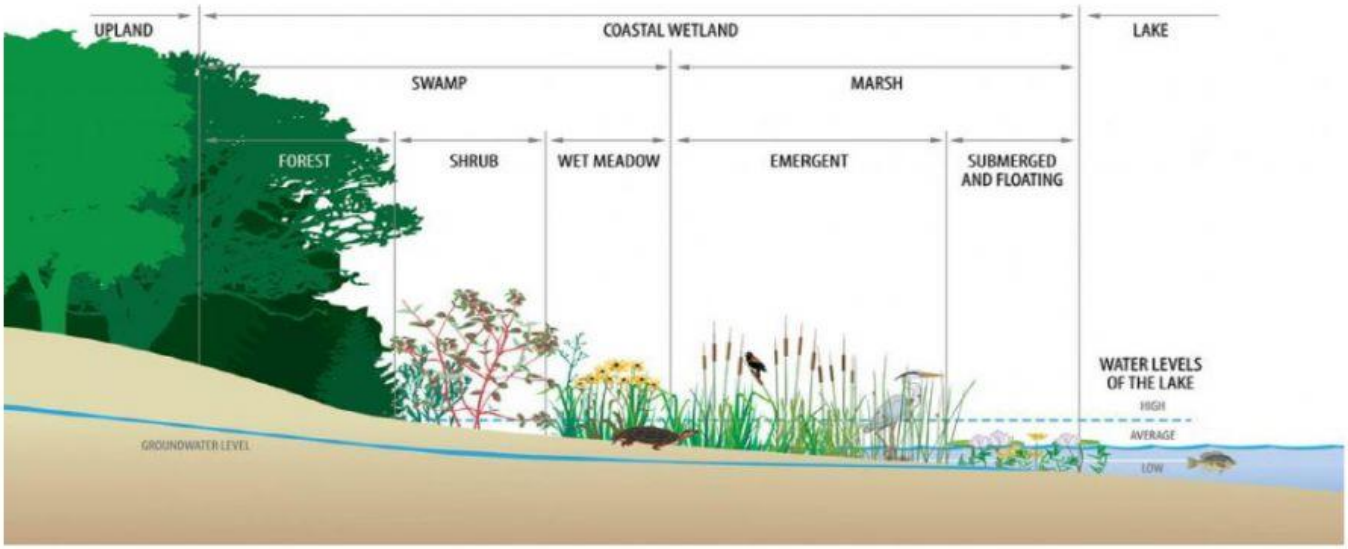
Feb. 22-26 Station 1: Explore Human Impacts on Wetlands

Directions: Answer the questions below using your prior knowledge and your imagination.



1. What are human impacts? Give an example of a positive and negative impact that humans have on a habitat.

Human Impact definition:

Example of a positive impact:

Example of a negative impact:

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas in which water is present some or all of the year. Wetlands are generally separated into coastal wetlands and inland wetlands. Coastal wetlands include tidal marshes, estuaries, and marine environments. Inland wetlands include a variety of marshes, swamps, and fens.

Wetlands provide critical benefits to plants, animals, humans, and the total environment. Most wetlands, with their abundance of food, vegetative cover (shelter), and water, are rich with a diversity of wildlife species. In fact, wetlands are one of the most productive ecosystems on earth, rivaling that even of the rainforests, due to the diversity and abundance of plant and animal life found there. Biodiversity refers to the richness or variation of life forms found in an ecosystem or biome. Coastal and inland marshes, for

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example, are the breeding, resting, and wintering habitats for thousands of migratory birds, including ducks, geese, swans, shorebirds, herons, and other wading birds. Eighty percent of all breeding bird populations in the US and more than 50% of the migratory bird species rely on wetland habitat at some point during their lifecycle.

Throughout history, many human settlements have been closely tied to wetland areas. Proximity to wetlands allows people access to resources necessary for survival. **This close relationship to wetlands generally leads to human impacts on the natural systems. Wetland areas have experienced significant human impact over the past 100 years as the human population and industrialization increased.**

2. After reading about wetlands, reexplain in your own words, in complete sentences, what a wetland is below.

3. What are three benefits that wetlands provide for organisms?

Benefit 1:

Benefit 2:

Benefit 3:

4. Come up with three examples of human impacts you might see on a wetland.

5. Do you think you would see more negative or positive human impacts on a wetland? Why?

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