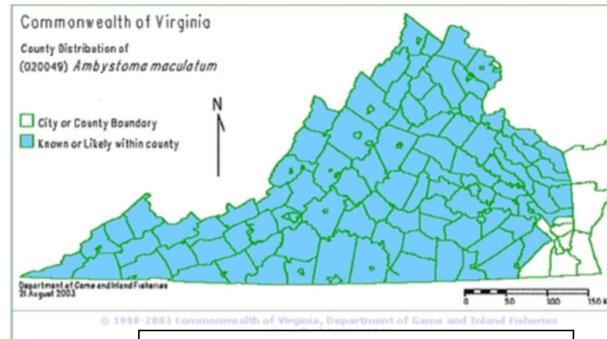


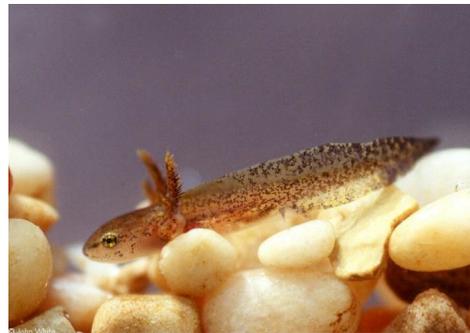
Spotted Salamander Information

- These organisms migrate in the spring to **vernal pools** (wetland ponds that dry up). Vernal Pools are wetlands with certain wetland adapted plants. **Use the Wetland Plant Key** to look for: black willow, cattails, sycamore, yellow pond lily, cocklebur, and smartweed.
- These salamanders breathe through their skin. They need clear, cool water without sediment or runoff from farms. Can you **see through** the water?
- Adults live in old mammal holes (burrows) in **clay or silty-clay soil**. Use the **soil texture** page to find the soil type.
- The young eat small **water animals** such as water fleas, ostracods, and dragonfly larvae. Adults eat **small land animals** including earthworms, snails, spiders, and insects. Can you find evidence of these food sources?



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Commented [1]: Add a page to suggest that teachers review these materials with their students.



Freshwater Clam Information

- These organisms need to live **vernal pools** (wetland ponds that dry up). Vernal Pools are wetlands with certain wetland adapted plants. **Use the Wetland Plant Key** to look for: black willow, cattails, sycamore, yellow pond lily, cocklebur, and smartweed.
- These clams can survive in water without oxygen if they stay moist. BUT they need water that is **clear and without pollution or runoff** from nearby farms. Can you **see through** the water?
- Freshwater clams live in fine sediment such as **silty-clay** with areas of thick mud they can burrow into. Use the **soil texture** page to find the soil type.
- These clams are filter feeders that **eat algae and dead leaves** floating in the water.
- Freshwater clams are food for many mammals and birds.



Raccoon Information

- These organisms prefer to live in moist woodlands with water close by. They build dens in trees, woodchuck burrows, and caves. **Are there trees or hilly areas** for raccoons to den? **Use the Wetland Plant Key** to look for: black willow, cattails, sycamore, yellow pond lily, cocklebur, and smartweed.
- Raccoons hunt for all kinds of plants and animals in and around water. They need to be able to hunt for their food in water that is not polluted with runoff or sediment. Too much sediment makes it harder to find their food. Can you **see through** the water?
- Raccoons prefer to live near wetlands with soil that is soft so they can easily dig for plants and insects in the soft soil. The easiest soils to dig in are silty loam or silty clay soils. Use the **soil texture** page to find the soil type.
- Raccoons are **omnivorous** and eat crayfish, birds, mammals, fish, eggs, insects, earthworms, frogs, berries, nuts, vegetable matter, and carrion.



Green Darner Dragonfly Information

- These organisms need water to survive. They prey on other animals that are found both in and out of the water. They rest, perch, and hide in the wetland plants both above and in the water to ambush their prey. **Use the Wetland Plant Key** to look for: black willow, cattails, sycamore, yellow pond lily, cocklebur, sedges, and smartweed.
- Dragonflies live as larvae in the water where they capture food. They are pollution sensitive, meaning they need clear, cool water (so, it cannot be cloudy or turbid!) Too much sediment with pollution will harm them as larvae and harm the animals they hunt, too catch their prey either by stalking it or waiting in the sediment and ambushing whatever comes along. Can you **see through** the water?
- Dragonfly larvae sometimes burrow into the soft, wetland soil over the winter. They require silty loam or silty clay soils to make digging easier. Use the **soil texture** page to find the soil type.
- As larvae, dragonflies eat water fleas, mosquito larvae, tadpoles, ostracods. Look at the water sample and use the **aquatic macroinvertebrate key** to find these organisms.
- As **adults, dragonflies eat insects** above the wetland. They can eat flies, mosquitos, butterflies, moths, and sometimes bees!



Red-winged Blackbird Information

- These organisms need water to survive. Red winged blackbirds build nests on wetland plants like cattails and sedges. They weave the nest out of cattail leaves, willow bark, wet leaves from marshes, mud, and small grasses. **Use the Wetland Plant Key** to look for: black willow, cattails, sycamore, yellow pond lily, cocklebur, sedges, and smartweed.
- They are pollution sensitive, meaning they need clear, cool water (so, it cannot be cloudy or turbid!). If there is too much sediment or pollution in the water, insects may die, leaving very little food for these and other birds. Can you **see through** the water?
- These birds use soft, wetland soil to help keep their nests together. The best soil for this is silty clay soil. Use the **soil texture** page to find the soil type.
 - Since red-winged blackbirds eat insects all summer, and **NEED insects to feed their babies**, they depend on
 - lots of insects they can find flying around wetlands. Red-winged Blackbirds eat insects in the summer and seeds in the winter (cocklebur, smartweed). With their strong beak, they pry open the plant bases to find insects hidden inside.



Wood Frog Information

- These organisms need water to survive. Wood frogs lay their eggs in vernal pools. Vernal Pools are wetlands **WITHOUT** fish that have certain wetland adapted plants. **Use the Wetland Plant Key** to look for: black willow, cattails, sycamore, yellow pond lily, cocklebur, sedges, and smartweed.
- Wood frogs breathe through their skin. They need to live in clear, cool water without sediment or runoff from farms. If there is too much sediment or pollution in the water, insects may die, leaving very little food for frogs and other living things. Can you **see through** the water?
- In the winter, adult wood frogs burrow into light, loamy soil with a lot of dead leaves on top. The **best soil** for this is any type of silty soil. Use the **soil texture** page to find the soil type.
- Adults use their long, sticky tongues to catch insects, arachnids, worms, slugs, and snails. Tadpoles are herbivores and eat algae and decaying plant matter. Are these **food sources** here?



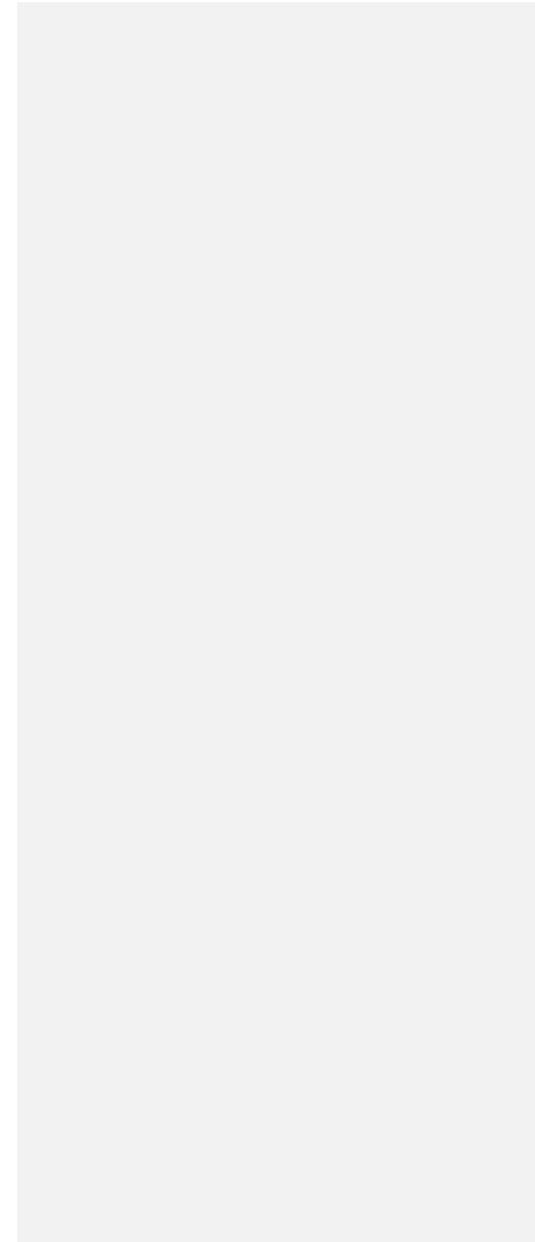
Investigate. Use the Information sheet to learn about the organism's life needs and the effects of erosion and pollution on this organism's ability to survive.

Group member names: _____

What is your organism? _____

Question	Answer	
Is this a wetland? Use the <u>Wetland Plant Key</u> to look for wetland plants. List the wetland plants you find.		
Is the water clear or cloudy? (Ask: can you see through the water?)		
What type of soil is here? Use the <u>Soil Texture Chart</u>		
Are the animal's food sources found here? Look into the <u>Water sample</u> & use the <u>ID key</u> and list any foods you find that this animal can eat.		
How might erosion and sediment runoff affect this animal?		
Where will you find your organism in this habitat? (In the soil, in a tree, stuck to a branch, floating in the water.)	baby	adult

How does your organism fit into this habitat?



On this page, build a food web that includes your organism plus other living things it depends on to survive.

