

Title of Lesson Plan	Temperate Forests vs. Wetlands – Is One More Important than the Other?
Prepared By	Abby Shelton
City and State	Tampa, Fl
Grade Level(s)	4-5
Keywords (subjects covered)	Temperate forests, wetlands, sustainability, economic benefits, ecological benefits, and social benefits
Brief Description	Students will research either the temperate forest or wetlands then work in groups to compare and contrast them. They will then identify the economic, ecological, and social benefits of each.
Total Time Required	45 minutes for research, 45 minutes for actual lesson
Setting	Classroom
Lesson Objectives/Goals	Students will identify the attributes of a temperate forest and a wetland. The student will compare and contrast the two while discussing sustainability.
Materials Needed	Internet for research, Venn Diagram, map
Standards Addressed	SC.5.L.17 - Plants and animals, including humans, interact with and depend upon each other and their environment to satisfy their basic needs. SC.5.L.15 - Earth is home to a great diversity of living things, but changes in the environment can affect their survival.
Procedure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In a whole group, discuss the term forest and give examples of different types. Focus in on the temperate forest and see what attributes students know. 2. Lead a discussion with students about whether forests exist in Florida. As you lead the discussion, arrive at the point that instead of forests, Florida has more wetlands. 3. Discuss the term wetlands and see what students know about those attributes. Make a chart of what students know about both wetlands and temperate forests. 4. Have students debate over which would be more important – temperate forests or wetlands. As the debate continues, introduce the terms ecological benefits, economic benefits, and social benefits. 5. Split the class into two equal groups. One group will research temperate forests and the other wetlands through the internet. Students should look for the following – animals, plants, locations, recreation, tree types, and weather. Have students use the following websites: http://www.mbgnet.net/index.html,

	<p>http://www.nps.gov/olym/naturescience/index.htm (for temperate forests) and http://www.nps.gov/ever/naturescience/index.htm (for wetlands)</p> <p>6. After students have researched their subject, form groups of 4 (2 from each group) to discuss the similarities and differences. Groups fill out a Venn Diagram as they discuss.</p> <p>7. Lead a whole group discussion again about the importance of both a temperate forest and a wetland. Pose the question – Do you think that we should conserve both of these ecosystems and why?</p>
Assessment	<p>Students write a written response to the final question: Do you think we should conserve both of these ecosystems and why? They should include the terms ecological, economical, and social benefits within their response.</p> <p>You may also use the group's Venn Diagram for assessment.</p>
Literature Cited/References	http://www.mbgnet.net and www.nps.gov
Forestry Tour Attended	Pacific Northwest 2008

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