

Name: _____

Date: _____ Period: _____

Lab: Marsh Madness

Marshes are extremely productive and diverse ecosystems. Today you will be exploring this environment by observing its biotic and abiotic characteristics. Answer the following questions in detail – use the back of this sheet if necessary.

1. Stand still and listen. What do you hear? What are the possible sources of these sounds?
2. Observe the insects flying in and around the marsh. Draw and describe one of them.
3. Observe the insects crawling on the marsh grass. Draw and describe one of them.
4. Observe the grasses within the marsh. Draw and describe one of them.
5. Observe the water of the marsh. Describe what you see. Try to catch any organisms with the dip net. Describe any organisms you observe.
6. Dig into the soil of the marsh with a small shovel. Describe the soil in detail. Do you see anything living within the soil?
7. What are some potential sources of pollution for this marsh?
8. How could the pollution entering the marsh be minimized?
9. Give one reason why wetlands are important ecosystems? (as discussed in class).
10. Relate your reason in question 9 to this marsh. How is that importance evident?