

[From Fall 1994]

Kid's Korner

In the Fall 1993 Piping Plover, we learned that wetlands, in general, are areas that have wet soils or are covered by shallow water at least part of the year, and that Chincoteague Refuge has different kinds of wetlands. These wetlands include freshwater marsh and saltmarsh.

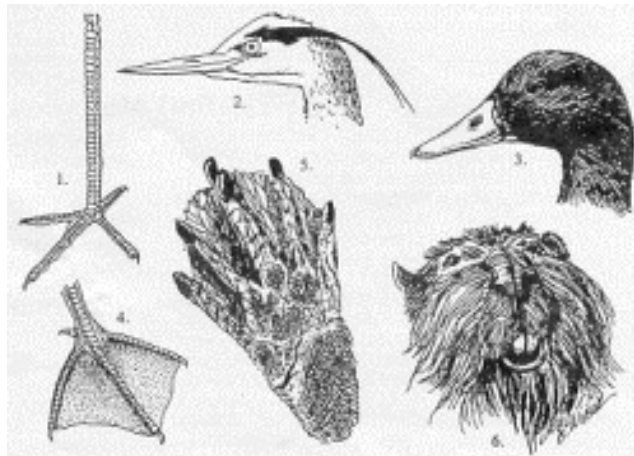
Animals and plants that live in wetlands are **adapted** to that environment, which means that they have special features which allow them to live there. In the exercise below match the animal with its **adaptation**.

Adaptations

Many times animals have special adaptations to allow them an advantage in their habitat. An example is the flat tail of the beaver, which serves as a rudder (steering wheel) while swimming.

Match the Adaptation

- A. Paddles through water; dives to get food items from the bottom of the pond.
- B. Walks in muddy places searching for fish, snails, frogs and many other things to eat.
- C. Propels animal through water; helps in grooming the fur.
- D. Used for sifting water and mud to strain out bits of food.
- E. Long, slim, strong pointed bill to reach into water and catch fish.
- F. Strong, chisel like teeth, used for cutting down trees.



From *Wetlands, Wildlife and You*, prepared by New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and reprinted for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.

Editors' Note: There are no beavers on Chincoteague Refuge. Check with your state fish and game department or a nearby National Wildlife Refuge to see if beavers live near you.