

## The Wetland Dodgeball Game

Shared by Tammi Remsburg, Cabarrus SWCD with permission from Karen Garland on TeachersPayTeachers

To help you understand the effect diminishing wetlands have on our environment, you are going to join in an interactive activity in which there will be two equal teams: "Wetland Team" & "Development Team".

Place a rope on the floor or schoolyard, so that it marks the boundary of the wetland (an irregular circle, where the ends of the rope meet). Divide the class into two equal teams, providing each person with one of the nametags. Explain that the development team members will stand outside the perimeter of the "wetland" area. They will attempt to hit the members of the wetland team by throwing the ball at them. (Remind students to aim low and not at heads or torso. If they do, they will automatically be pulled out of the game.)

The plant and animal members of the wetland team have to dodge the ball. If they are hit by the ball or touch it, they are out. Plants and animals cannot touch or catch the ball. The human members of the wetland team will attempt to defend/protect the plants and animals by catching the ball. If they catch the ball before it touches the ground or hits a plant/animal, the developer who threw the ball is out. The wetland member then tosses the ball back to a developer to begin play again. The only way a developer is removed is if the human wetland team member catches their throw.

When a few of the wetland team members are out, readjust the boundaries of the wetland to reflect that part of the area has been destroyed. Have the developers take a step forward, to set the new boundary of the wetland as it is being developed. Continue as many rounds as desired to show the shrinking wetland's effect on the inhabitants.

Discuss what happened and why.

# Motor Oil Runoff



# Fertilizer



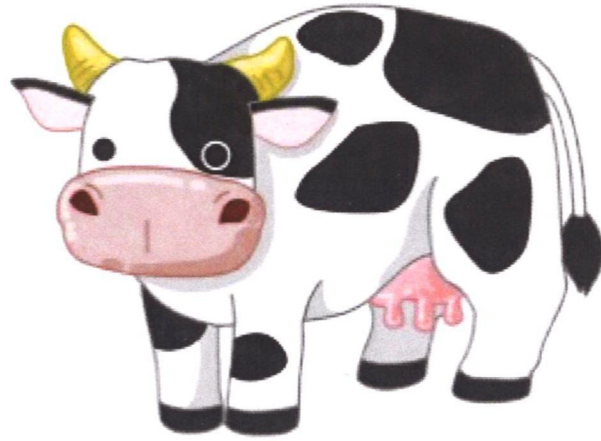
# Motor Oil Runoff



# Fertilizer



# Animal Waste



# Pesticide



# Animal Waste



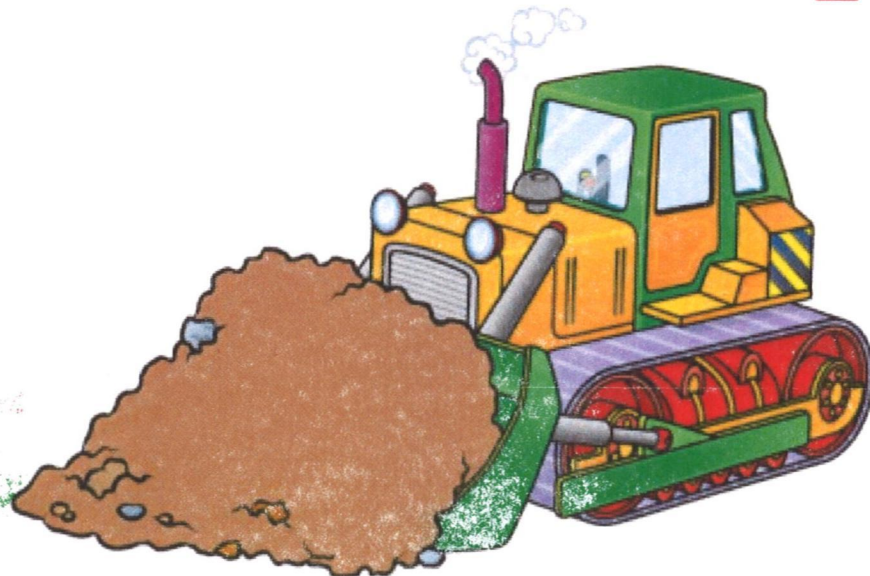
# Pesticide



# Miner



# Road Developer

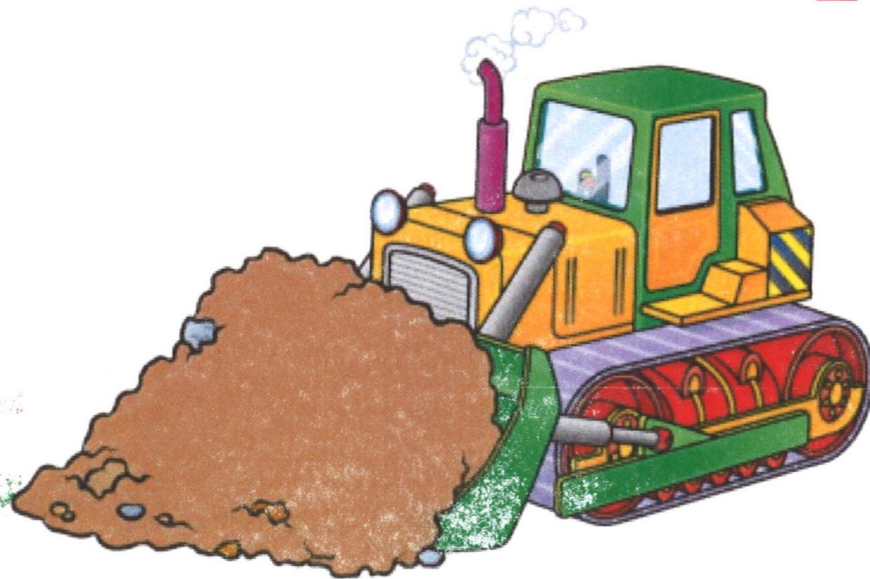




# Miner



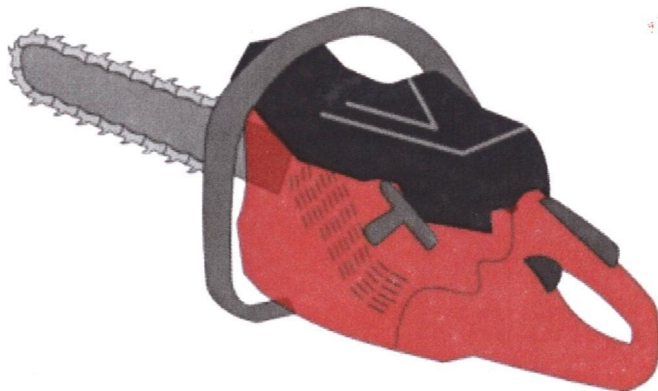
# Road Developer



# Building Developer

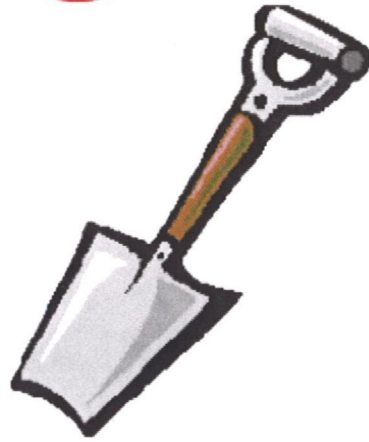


# Logger

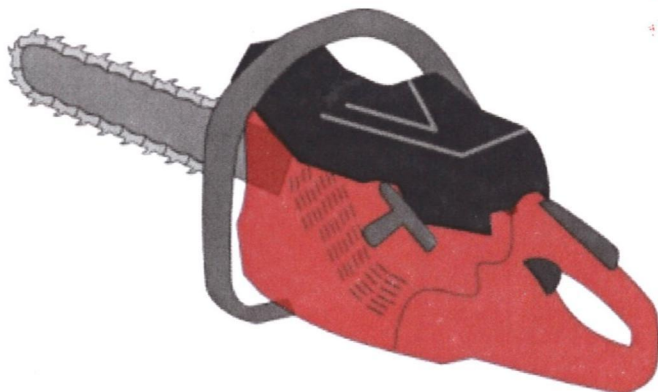




# Building Developer



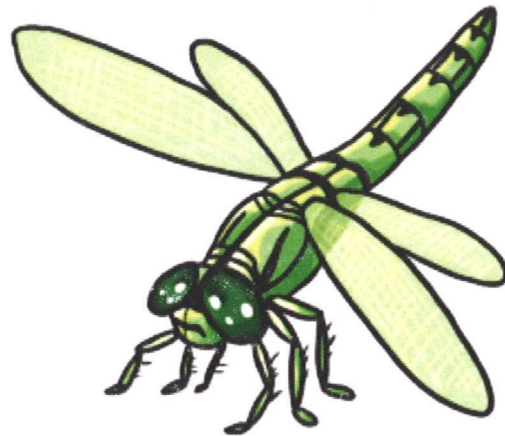
# Logger



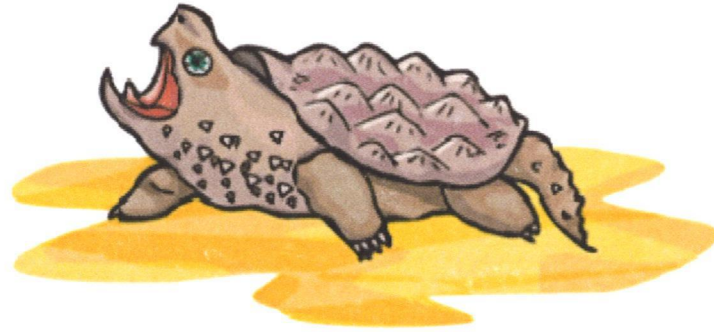
# Snapping Turtle



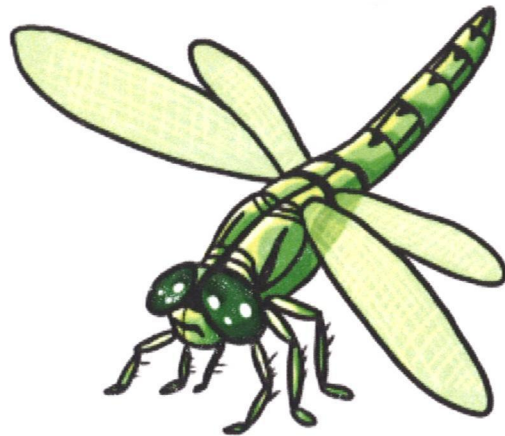
# Dragonfly



# Snapping Turtle



# Dragonfly



# Wildlife Biologist



# Environmental Planner



# Wildlife Biologist



# Environmental Planner





# Concerned Citizen



# Environmental Lawyer



# Concerned Citizen



# Environmental Lawyer



# Ecologist

I Spy an  
Ecosystem!



# Marsh Frog



# Ecologist

I Spy an  
Ecosystem!



# Marsh Frog



# Cattail



# Beaver





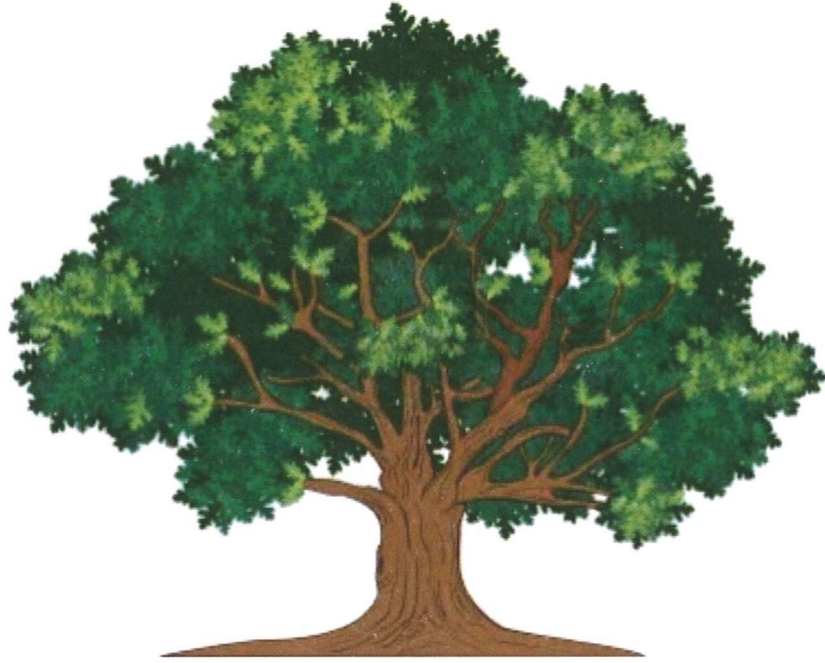
# Cattail



# Beaver



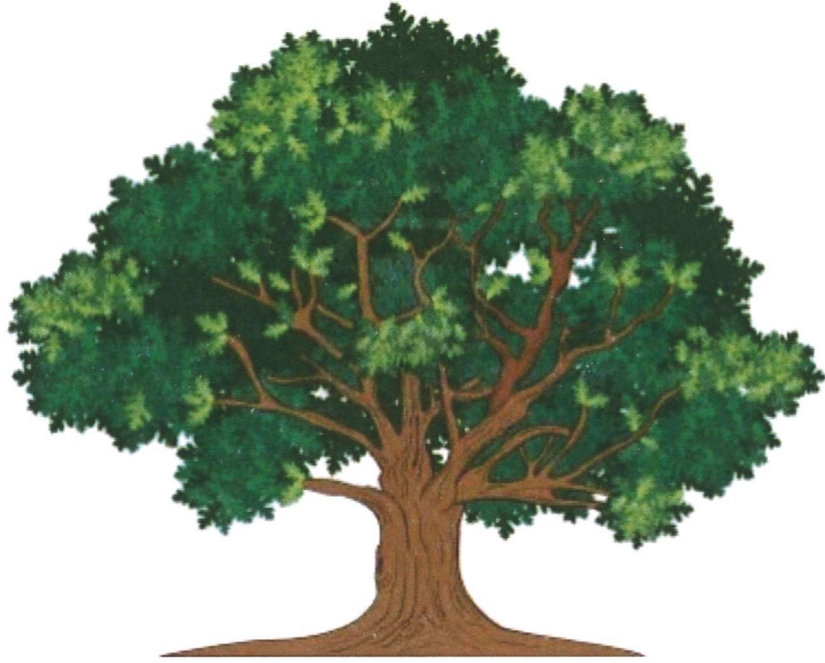
# River Oak Tree



# Red-Winged Blackbird



# River Oak Tree



# Red-Winged Blackbird

