

Swamp Things!

The Swamp: A Freshwater AND a Marine Biome



Some made-up stories have made people think that monsters live in swamps! The truth is, there are no swamp monsters, and many fascinating plants and animals call the swamp their home. Swamps are a type of wetland. Swamps are areas of land that have been permanently **saturated**, or filled up, by water. Swamps are usually found in warm, wet climates, and are characterized by being heavily forested. The thick, black, nutrient-rich soil in swamps can support the growth of water-tolerant trees and shrubs. Some swamp creatures live below the surface, and some live on the soft, spongy land that surrounds the swamp. Other swamp animals, such as alligators and nutrias, spend time both in and out of the swamp, depending on the time of day and activity. Many plants, fish, birds, and invertebrates, like freshwater shrimp, clams, and crayfish, and the American Crocodile, require the swamp's particular ecosystem to remain balanced to ensure their survival. Swamps are usually freshwater environments, but some saltwater swamps can be found connected to tropical coastlines.

Directions: Put the names of these wetland plants in alphabetical order.

Cattail

Silver Maple

Winterberry Holly

Marsh marigold

Bulrush

Water lily

Duckweed

Pondweed

Red Maple

Cranberry shrub

WATER