

Water Cycles of the Earth: Wetlands and Swamps

Follow the path of the water. Read the paragraph and fill in the blanks in the image.

Where does all that water come from? Swamps and wetlands get their mushy, gushy consistency from **rain fall** and **surface water**. Rivers and ground waters are the most common types of surface water. The flow of nutrients from the soil, the pH balance, and the salinity (or salt) changes as the surface water is moved around. This is called hydrodynamics. Around the watery portions of swamps and wetlands, there are large **deposits** of carbon, nitrogen and other phosphorus nurturance. These chemicals mix with other **minerals** from the surrounding rocks to keep the balance of the biota, or the organic life, healthy. Swamps and wetlands often have a lot of plants that are **emergent**, or poke out of the water's surface, but have their **roots** in the water. If there are a lot of bushes, shrubs, and trees around the water, we usually call that a swamp, instead of a wetland. Fish and birds are the most dependent animals in the wetlands. They feed on **algae** or plankton. One of the largest swamps in the world is the Florida Everglades.



The wetlands need your help! Check out your local Fish and Game Department to find out how you can help save the wetlands. .