

House In The Wood Lesson Plan
Support Document-Marsh
Using GPS to Visit the Ecosystems of House In The Wood

GEOCACHE STORY FOR MARSH LESSON

House In The Wood Marsh is **IN TROUBLE!**

The invasive grass **Phragmites** LOOKS like it is taking over the marsh. We need to gather data and record it in our science notebooks to send to the House In The Wood conservation station to see what can be done. **BUT FIRST...**

Let's decide if we ARE looking at a marsh. Use the key with your trail leader to make sure.

Are we in the right place--a marsh?

Now let's look around and draw a picture of the biotic members and abiotic factors of this marsh.

Using what you have observed, make a food chain in your notebook.

Now make a food chain with a muskrat

What do they eat?

What eats them?

What happens if the grass TAKES OVER the entire marsh and NO OTHER PLANTS CAN GROW? Will the muskrat survive? Will other animals have trouble surviving?

We are going to do an intervention! But first we need your data!

Determine the entire area of the marsh on the south side of Bay Road. Your trail leader will help you with the math.

Now determine the percentage of Phragmites grass in that area. Your trail leader will help you with the math.

Once we have this information, we can figure out what to do and how much it will cost to do it.