



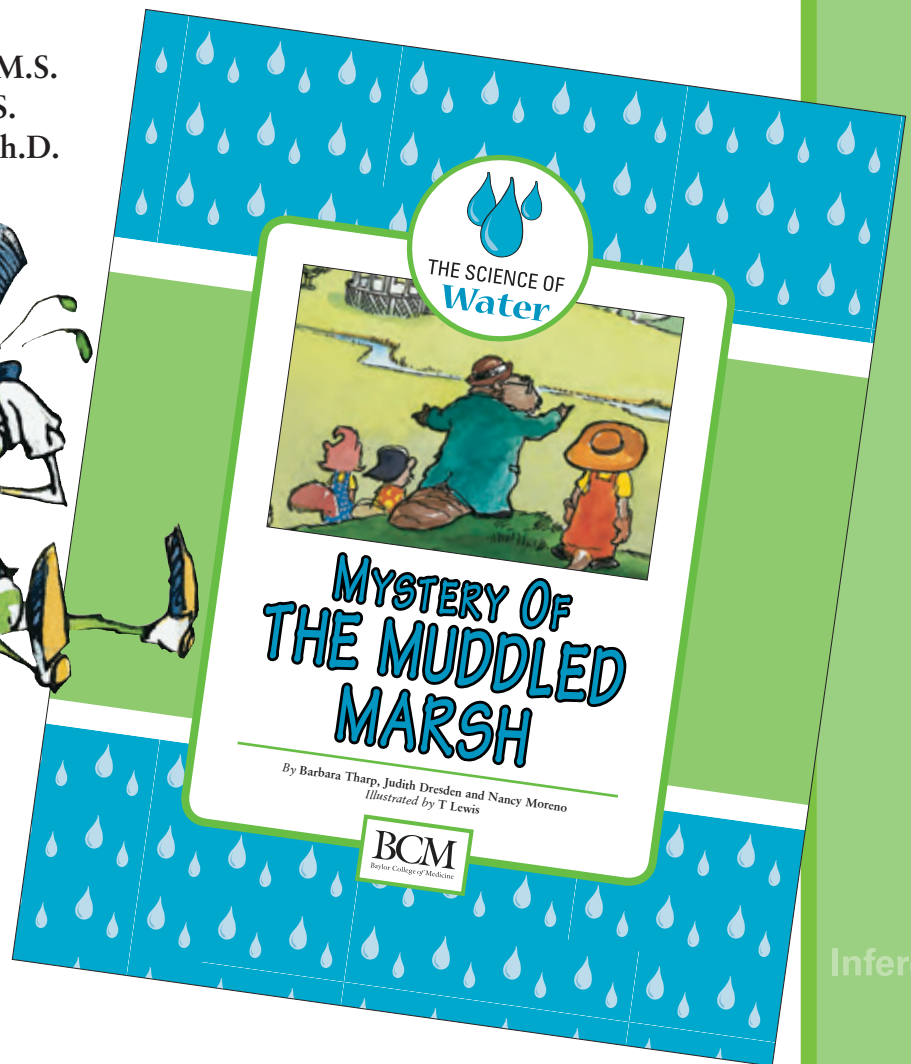
THE SCIENCE OF
Water

THE READING LINK

for *The Science of Water Teacher's Guide* and *Mystery of the Muddled Marsh*

Written by

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BioEd Teacher Resources from the Center for Educational Outreach

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This Reading Link contains ready-to-use reading and language arts activities that are aligned with The Science of Water integrated unit. It is not intended to represent a comprehensive reading program. The activities are related to language arts objectives common to many curricula and cover a range of grade and ability levels. Teachers may wish to select from these activities those that are most appropriate for their own students.

BioEdSM

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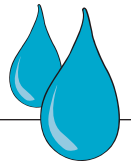
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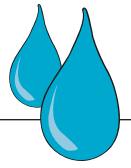
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Name _____

1. Find the word that fits best in each blank space. Fill in the circle next to your answer.
 - a. The water in the creek was so _____ that Riff could not see the bottom.
 - clear
 - cold
 - polluted
 - sparkling
 - b. The beaver's _____, made of sticks and twigs, would not let water go through.
 - dam
 - garden
 - marsh
 - pond
 - c. The _____ is causing the plants to grow too much.
 - scum
 - oxygen
 - fertilizer
 - turtle
 - d. If Mr. Otterbee couldn't catch fish to eat, he would have to become a _____.
 - vegetarian
 - carpenter
 - reptile
 - dinosaur





2. **Many Meanings.** Sometimes a word can have more than one meaning. Look at the different meanings for **gear** and **spring**. Then pick the meaning of those words that fits best in each sentence. Write its number next to the sentence.

gear

1. part of a machine that controls speed
2. equipment; things to use for a special purpose

_____ Riff threw his camping gear into his backpack.

_____ Mr. Otterbee shifted the tractor into high gear.

spring

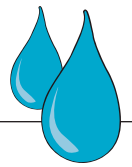
1. jump up; leap
2. coiled wire used in chairs and beds
3. season between winter and summer
4. flow of water out of the ground

_____ Water bubbled up from the spring.

_____ Watch Rosie spring off the diving board.

_____ A spring was popping out of the sofa.

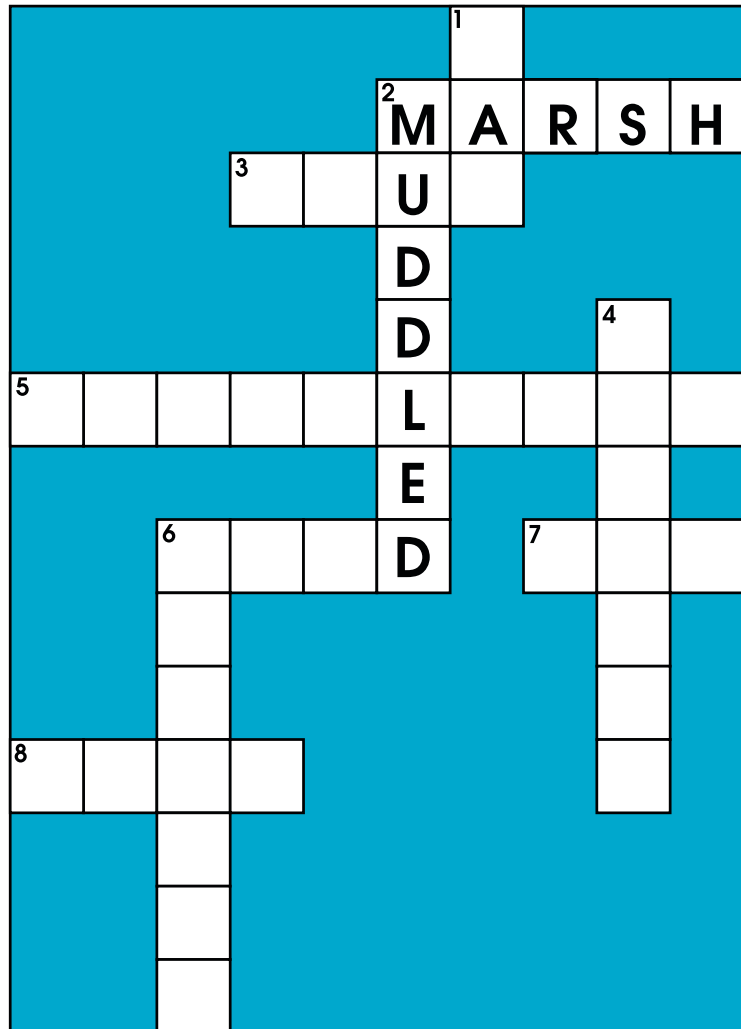
_____ Tulips bloom in the spring.



3. A **Muddled Marsh Crossword Puzzle**. All of the words in this crossword puzzle are in the story, *Mystery of the Muddled Marsh*.

Across

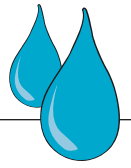
2. Low, wet land covered by grasses and other small plants
3. A slimy coating on top of water
5. A substance added to soil so that plants will grow better
6. A body of water that is smaller than a lake
7. Not young, but _____
8. To bend one part over another



Down

1. A barrier across a waterway that controls the flow of water
2. Mixed up; messed up
4. Land covered with shallow water most of the time
6. To make dirty or impure





Name _____



1. Read pages 1 and 2 in *Mystery of the Muddled Marsh*. Which one of the three things below happened FIRST? Write 1 next to it. Then write 2 by the event that happened next, and 3 by the one that happened last.

_____ Riff almost knocked Mr. Slaptail into the pond.

_____ Rosie bumped into Mrs. Pondslider.

_____ Rosie bet that her boat would beat Riff's boat across the pond.

2. After you have read the whole story, find which event below happened LAST. Write 4 next to it. Then write the numbers 1, 2 and 3 to show the order in which the other events happened.

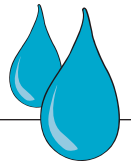
_____ Riff, Rosie and Mr. Slaptail discovered the new park, with new grass and plants.

_____ Riff and Rosie met all of the neighbors as they were moving out of the marsh.

_____ All of the neighbors got together to clean up the marsh.

_____ Riff, Rosie and Mr. Slaptail learned that there were no fish to be found in the marsh, and that the marsh was full of scum and weeds.

Cause and Effect Relationships



Name _____



Read pages 3 and 4 in the storybook. Then write your answers to these questions.

1. Why was Mrs. Pondslider leaving?

2. Why did the water hit Rosie in the face?

3. Why couldn't Mr. Slaptail see the stems of his hyacinths?

4. Why was Oscar Otterbee in Mr. Slaptail's pond?

Details and Supporting Ideas



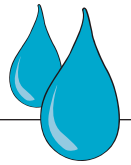
Name _____



1. Look at the picture on pages 22 and 23. In your own words, write down what you see. Tell who, where and what. Include as many details as you can.

2. Think of all the characters you can remember from the story. Then choose which one is your *favorite*. Tell why you like that character the best, giving as many reasons as you can.

My favorite character in the story, *Mystery of the Muddled Marsh*,
is _____. That is because:



Name _____

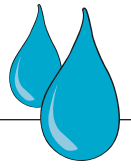


1. Look at the yellow box at the bottom of page 5. Which sentence below best tells the main idea of this Science Box? Fill in the circle by your answer.

- I could use a cool glass of water right now!
- Water helps us stay healthy.
- We use water to keep ourselves clean.
- Most water comes from things we drink.

2. Look at the Grasshopper's Science Box on page 14. Which sentence below best tells the main idea? Fill in the circle by your answer.

- Water comes into the body through the mouth.
- The kidneys are the body's waste treatment plants.
- Water is very important inside the body.
- Liquids inside our body, like blood, are made mostly of water.



Following Written Directions

Name _____

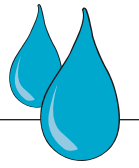
Facts are true. Opinions are what someone thinks, but they might not be true. Tell whether you think each of these sentences from the story states a fact or an opinion. Write **F** or **O** in each space. (Look back in the story if you need to.)

- _____ Paper boats will get soggy and sink in a minute. (page 1)
- _____ When Beaver Pond gets too full, the water backs up into the marsh. (page 9)
- _____ Almost everything on Earth depends on water. (page 13)
- _____ Riff is a “Mr. Know-It-All.” (page 14)
- _____ Natural spring water comes right out of the ground. (page 16)
- _____ An ugly, gasping monster staggered up the hill. (page 19)
- _____ The tractor took off without Mr. Otterbee. (page 20)
- _____ When it rains, loose soil and fertilizer run into the creek. (page 23)
- _____ This boat will win for sure. (page 30)

Following Written Directions

Follow the directions on pages 32 and 33 to make a paper boat. Work with a partner to make a boat together the first time, and then make and decorate your own boat.





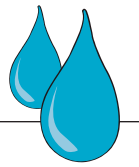
Name _____



1. Read pages 5 to 7. Pretend you are Riff, visiting your cousin Rosie. Write a short note to your family at home, telling them what happened today. (Describe what happened only on pages 5–7.)

2. After you have read the whole story, list 5 things you have learned that we can do to keep our water supply safe and clean.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____



Name _____



1. Fill in the circle by the word that shows how each character felt.
 - a. How did Mrs. Pondslider feel when she said, “We can’t live here anymore!”?
 - happy
 - curious
 - sad
 - excited
 - b. How did Riff feel when he said, “What are they talking about? Creeks don’t die.”?
 - happy
 - lucky
 - sad
 - confused
 - c. How did Mr. Slaptail feel when he said, “We worked hard to fix the park, and our water is clean again, so everyone can live here!”?
 - happy
 - angry
 - sad
 - afraid



2. After you have read *Mystery of the Muddled Marsh*, decide whether you think each of these sentences is True or False. Mark T or F on the line by each sentence. If you decide a sentence is false, rewrite it below to make it a true statement.

_____ Riff and Rosie do not care about the environment.

_____ The marsh became polluted because the people who live there were careless litterbugs.

_____ Even parks can be damaging to the natural environment if they are not built and taken care of properly.

_____ Oscar Otterbee was trying to pollute the marsh to anger his neighbors.

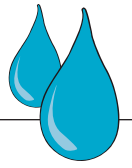
_____ Once water becomes polluted, it can not be cleaned and will remain polluted forever.

_____ Many types of wildlife live in marshes because there are plenty of food and nesting places.



3. Rewrite False sentences on the lines below to make them true.

Predicting Probable Outcomes



Name _____

Think About It! What do you think will happen in Bright Water Corners after this story ends? How will the neighbors feel when the creek and marsh are healthy again? Do you think everyone learned something from what happened? Will life around the marsh be different from before? Write a paragraph, telling what you predict.