

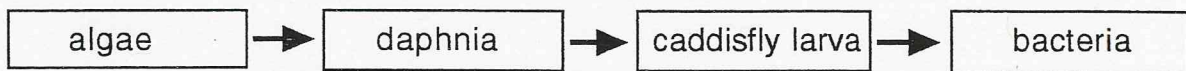
# A wetlands community

## Teacher notes

The accompanying sheet includes a range of plants, animals and microorganisms found in a wetland community similar to that found at Arbury Park Outdoor School. Students can cut out the 21 cards to make a pack. Each card contains the name, an illustration and feeding information of one member of the wetland community. Students of different ages and abilities can use the cards in a number of learning activities. The list below outlines some possibilities.

### 1. Food chains

- Arrange the cards to make food chains. Each food chain should begin with a plant and finish with a decomposer. For example



- Challenge your students to make as many different food chains as possible, or the longest food chain they can assemble.
- Students can represent their food chains by drawing flow diagrams.

### 2. Food webs

- Arrange the cards on a large piece of poster paper. Place the plants near the bottom, the plant eaters in a level above the plants, and the other animals in higher levels depending on their position in different food chains. Place the decomposers in a level below the plants to represent their presence in the soil.
- Carefully draw arrows to show the feeding relationships between the different members of the forest community. It doesn't take long for the food web diagram to become very complicated!
- Remove one or two cards (extinction or habitat destruction) and observe the effect on the rest of the food web.
- Paste the cards into position if you want to display your food web.

### 3. Grouping

- Ask your students to arrange the cards into groups of things they think are similar. Ask them to share their reasons (there will be many 'right' answers). Alternatively, students can view each other's groupings and try to predict the reasons other students used.
- Depending on their prior understandings, the discussion could lead to differences between plants and animals, plants and fungi, vertebrates and invertebrates, insects and crustaceans.

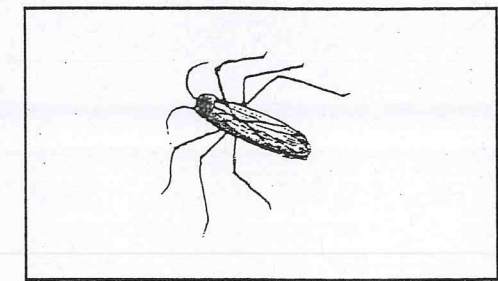
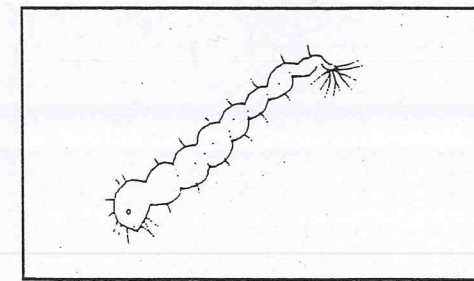
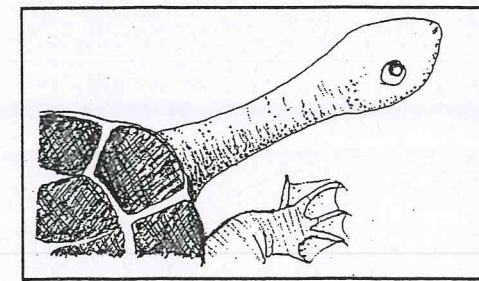
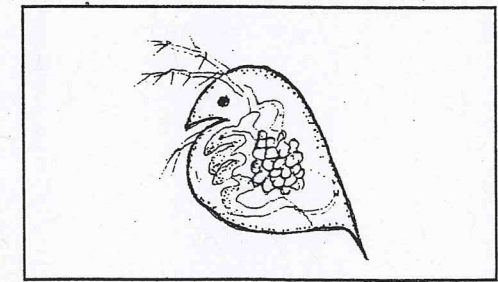
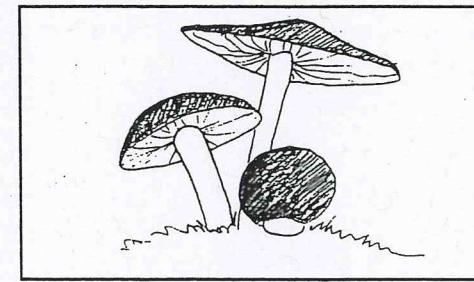
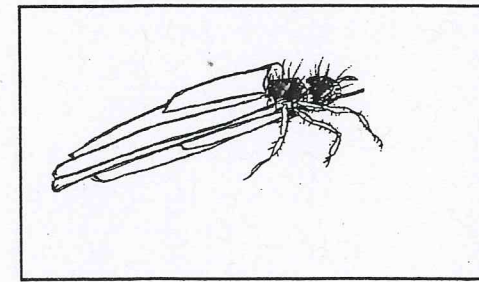
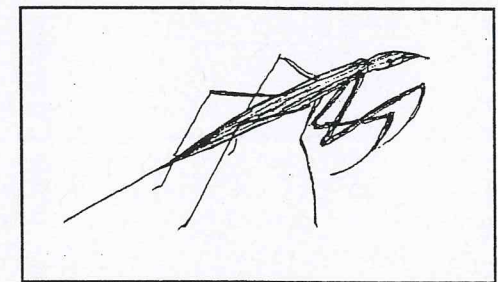
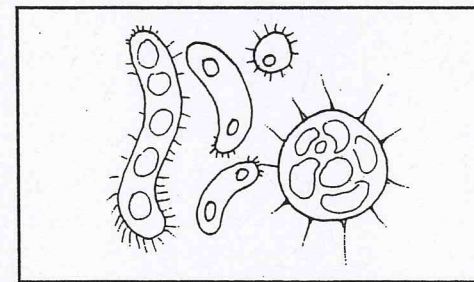
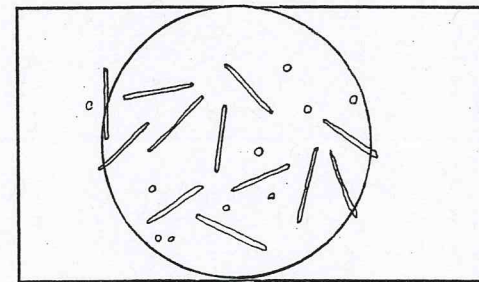
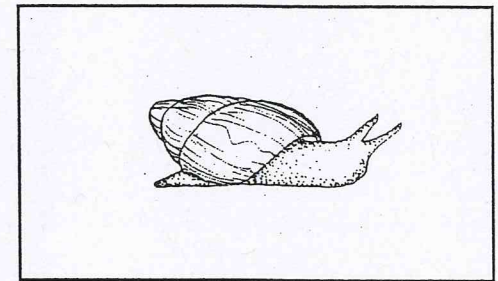
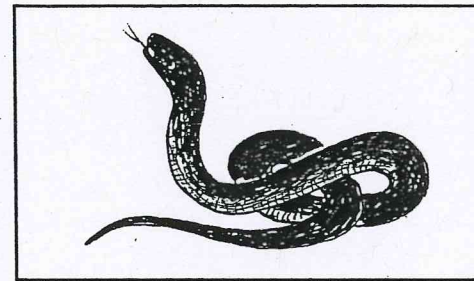
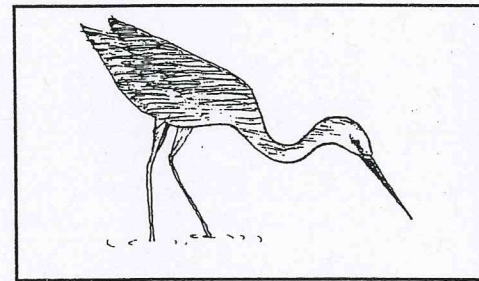
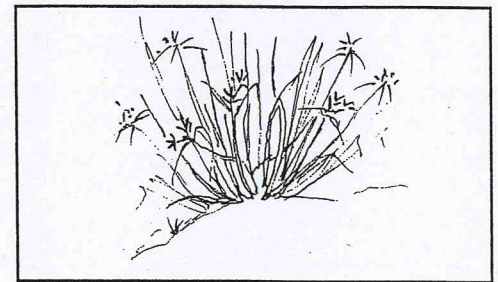
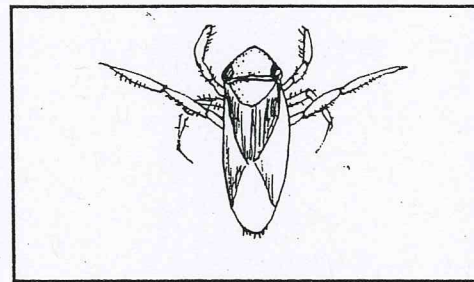
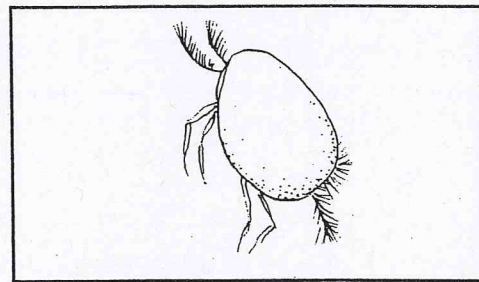
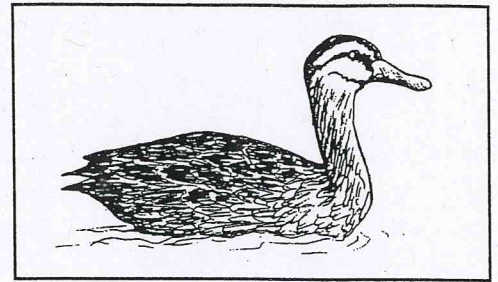
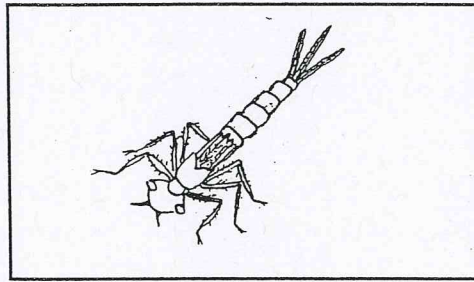
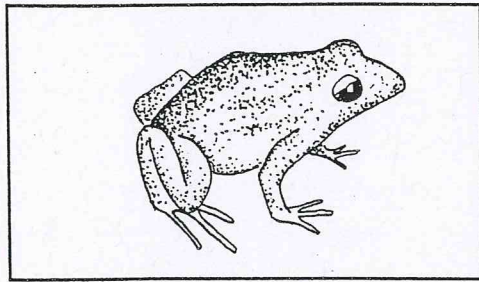
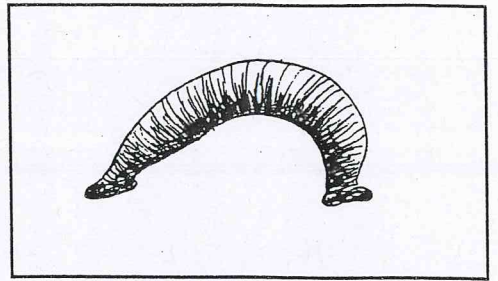
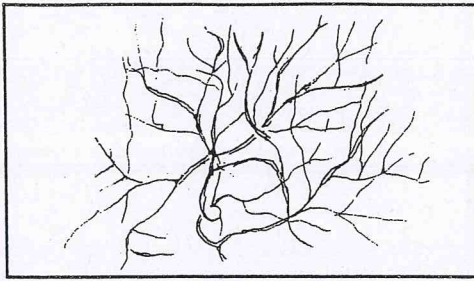
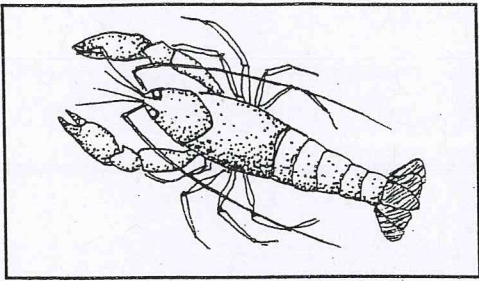
### 4. Endangered species

- The long necked tortoise was once widespread in the wetlands of south eastern South Australia. Students can discuss possible reasons for their disappearance and the effects on native plant and animals of reducing natural habitat.

### 5. Resource based learning

- Choose one of the members of the wetland community and prepare a report.
- Research other plants and animals that live in a wetland. Make your own set of food web cards. Make a set of cards for a completely different community.





## leech

feeds on blood

## algae

uses sunlight energy to make food

## yabbie

feeds on decomposing plants and animals

## black duck

feeds on insects, seeds and floating vegetation

## damselfly nymph

feeds on water insects

## common froglet

feeds on small insects and other invertebrates

## sedge

uses sunlight energy to make food

## water boatman

feeds on small particles of decomposing plants and animals

## ostracod

feeds on small particles of decomposing plants and animals

## pond snail

feeds on algae and other small plants

## red bellied black snake

feeds on frogs, bird eggs, small mammals

## white faced heron

feeds on frogs, reptiles, yabbies, and large insects

## water scorpion

feeds on small water insects

## phytoplankton

uses sunlight energy to make food

## bacteria

feed on plants and animals

## daphnia

feeds on phytoplankton and small particles of decomposing plants and animals

## fungus

feeds on plants, dead animals

## caddisfly larva

feeds on plants, daphnia, ostracods

## pond skater

feeds on ostracods, daphnia and insect larvae

## mosquito larva

feeds on small particles of decomposing plants and animals

## long necked tortoise

feeds on tadpoles, insect larvae, dead animal remains