



Wetland Plants

1. True or False: Cattails and Bulrushes are the same plant
a) True b) False
2. Which of the following plant is edible AND tastes like spicy cucumber!?
a) Duckweed b) Water Meal c) Northern Watermilfoil d) Cattail
3. True or False: the stem of a yellow pond lily is filled with hollow air cells that allow it to be used like a snorkel
a) True b) False
4. Which of the following plants is an important egg laying site for Columbia Spotted Frogs?
a) Yellow Pond Lily b) Duckweed c) Bulrush
d) Red Osier Dogwood
5. All of the following species are water plants except
a) Duckweed b) Elodea c) Milfoil d) Skunk Cabbage

ANSWERS ON THE REVERSE SIDE!!



NATURE QUIZ

Answers...

1. b; 2. d; 3. a; 4. c; 5. d

HERE IS THE LOW DOWN...

1. **False.** Although many people think of the two as the same plant, or mix up the names, they are two entirely separate species. Cattails have flat, light green leaves with flowers that look a bit like a large brown hot dog. Bulrushes are dark green, round and have brown clusters of small flowers at the very top of the spike-like stem.

2. **Cattails.** To eat a cat tail takes a few steps. First you must pluck them from the bottom of the pond and remove the stem from the roots. Then you have to peel off all the leaves until you are left with just the pale green or white core. This should fall apart when pinched in your fingers. Once you have the core you can bite into it. It tastes like a mild cucumber with a peppery after taste. Yummy!

3. **True.** In order to keep the lily pad afloat, the stem is filled with special cells that hold air. This helps the plant stay on the surface where it can get the most sunlight. If you pick a stem it is possible to blow bubbles or breath through these cells.

4. **Bulrush.** The Columbia spotted frog favors areas with heavy plant cover and they need a sturdy surface to deposit their eggs. Bulrushes are good for this because they are nice and stable and provide enough cover to protect the eggs from predators.

5. **Skunk Cabbage.** Although this plant grows in wet areas, and requires a lot of water to survive, it does not actually grow in the water like the other species listed. It is called Skunk Cabbage because of the stinky scent that it emits when blooming. Just past the Discovery Centre, off West Creston Rd, you will see a large patch of skunk cabbage in the early spring. Don't breathe too hard!

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