



# Se7en Wetlands Junior Explorer Guide

500 W Carter Rd, Lakeland, FL 33813



Created by Girl Scout Troop 74614, as their Bronze Award Project  
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Raise your right hand and say:



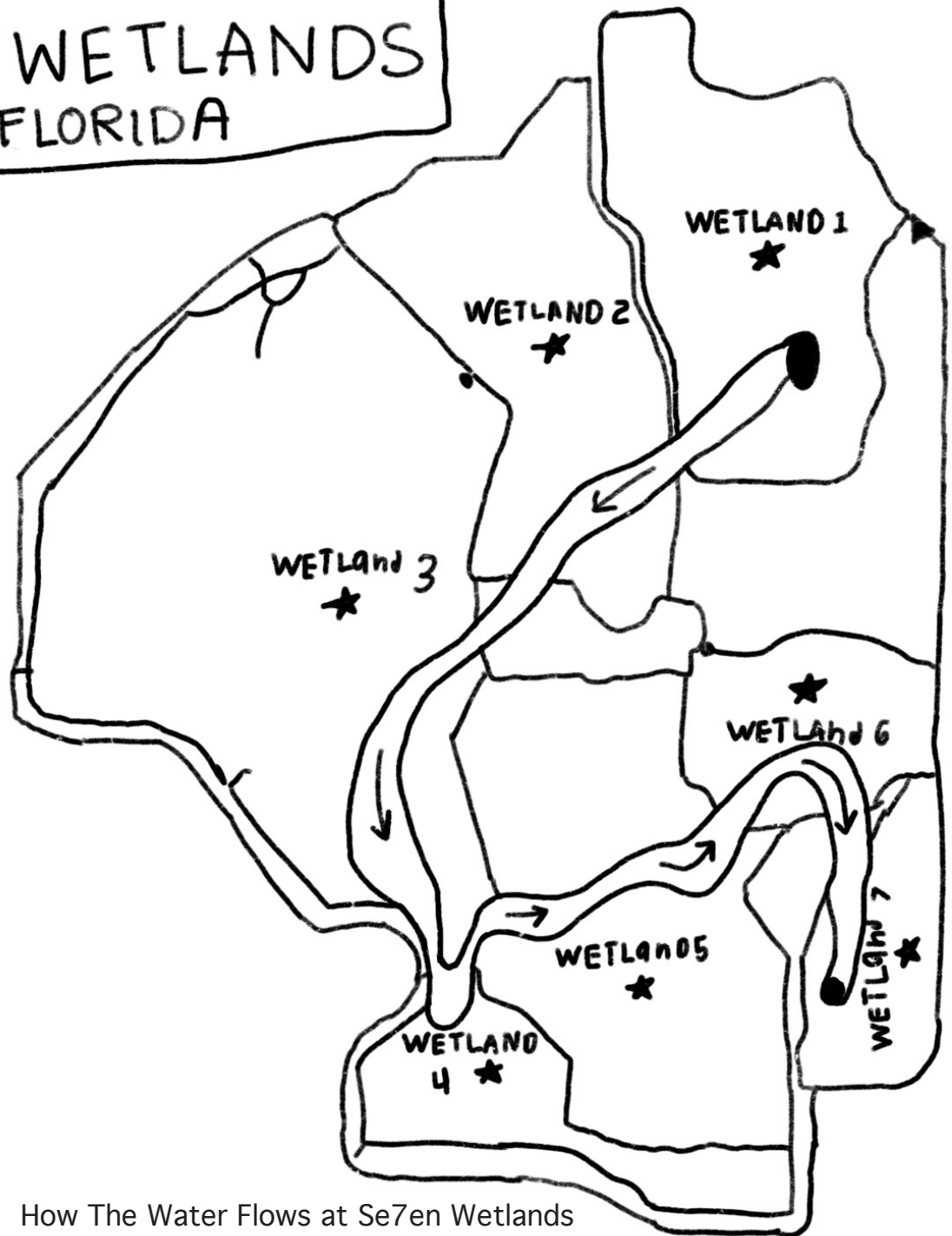
“I, \_\_\_\_\_, promise to leave nothing but footprints  
(name)

take nothing but photos, respect nature, and make the world a better place.”



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# SEVEN WETLANDS LAKELAND, FLORIDA



How The Water Flows at Se7en Wetlands

Each day, over 10 million gallons of treated wastewater from the City of Lakeland enters at the influent located at Wetland 1. The water then flows downhill a total of 80 ft. from Wetland 1 to Wetland 7 via distribution ditches. Traveling through the different wetland cells, 90% of nitrogen is able to be removed, meeting Advances Wastewater Treatment (AWT) standards. This process goes slowly taking approximately 100 days. This allows suspended sediment to sink to the bottom where bacteria and microorganisms break-down pollutants as they become buried in the soil. Once clean, the water exits at Wetland 7 one of two ways: the water can exit through the effluent where it flows to the Alafia River and ultimately into the Tampa Bay, or it can be pumped by the Tampa Electric Company to be used at the Polk Power Station.

# B-I-N-G-O

As you explore the different areas, keep your eyes open for the variety of flora, fauna and wildlife. Can you find 5 in a row across, down, or diagonal? You can also try to find them all to fill your BINGO card.

B	I	N	G	O
 <p>Common Buckeye Butterfly</p>	 <p>Interrupted Spider Wasp</p>	 <p>Opossum</p>	 <p>Black-bellied Whistling Duck</p>	 <p>Southeastern Five-Lined Skink</p>
 <p>Eastern Cotton- tail Rabbit</p>	 <p>Yellow-gilled Gymnophyllus</p>	 <p>Armadillo</p>	 <p>Northern Cardinal</p>	 <p>Giant Katydid</p>
 <p>North American River Otter</p>	 <p>White-tailed Deer</p>	<p>FREE SPACE</p>	 <p>Woodpecker</p>	 <p>Slash Pine Tree</p>
 <p>Great Egret</p>	 <p>Softshell Turtle</p>	 <p>Bobcat</p>	 <p>Banded Watersnake</p>	 <p>Green Treefrog</p>
 <p>Cogon Grass</p>	 <p>Florida Harvester Ant</p>	 <p>Red-shouldered Hawk</p>	 <p>American Alligator</p>	 <p>Mallard Duck</p>

# Scavenger Hunt

Can you find these plants?

**Hairy beggar ticks**



**Golden Leather Fern**



**Cattails**



**Water Hyacinth**



**Blue Flag**



**Palmetto**



**Cedar Tree**

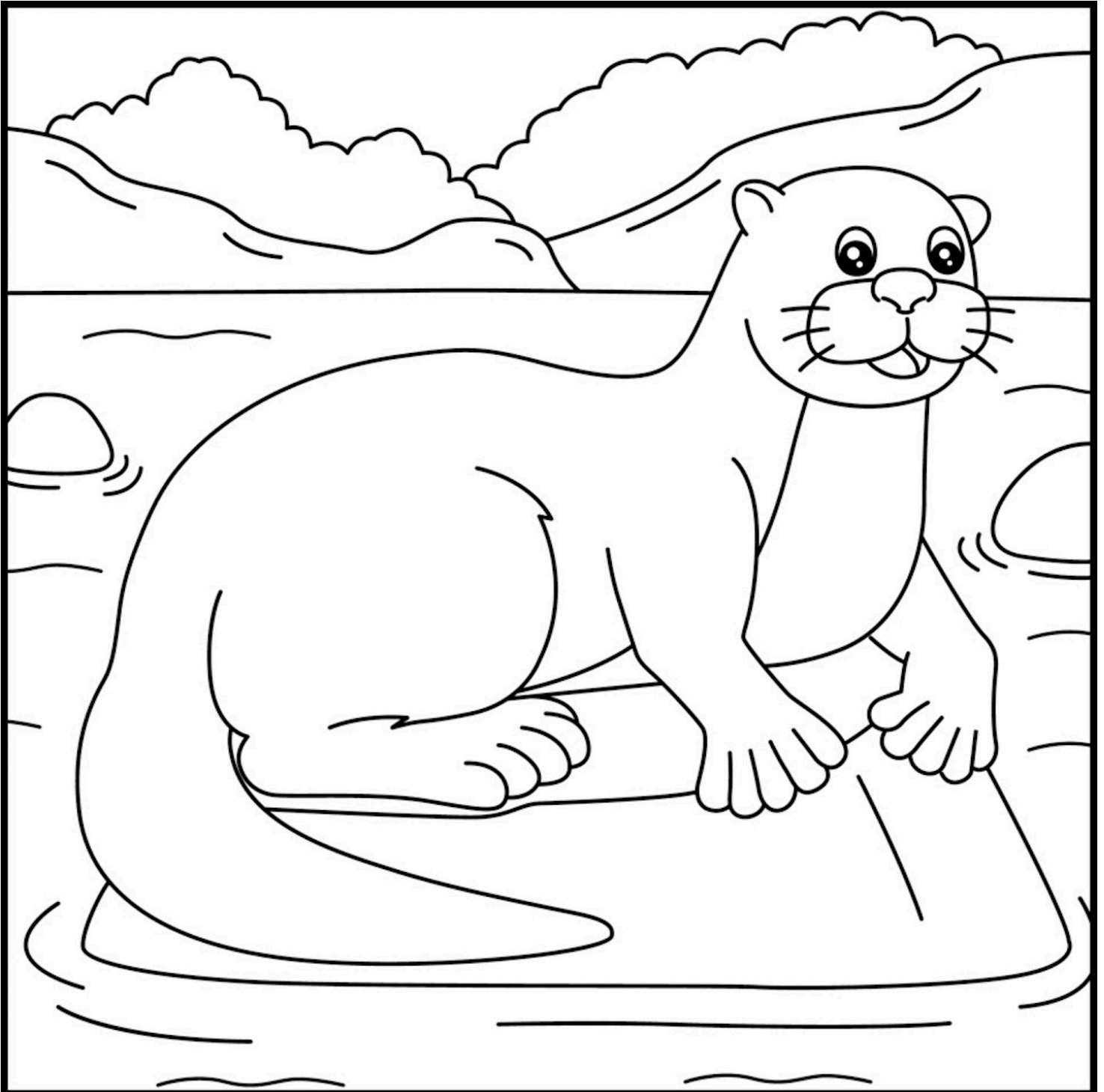


Nature is a pretty thing. Draw your favorite thing you have seen in the Se7en Wetlands. (Ex. Alligator, Cattails, LilyPad)



## Coloring Page: North American River Otter (*Lontra canadensis*)

The North American River Otter is a semi-aquatic mammal that lives along the North American waterways and coasts. Fully grown, adults can weigh between 11-31 pounds. These predators use their long thick whiskers to detect prey in dark waters as they aid in enhancing their senses. Their diet consists primarily of fish, however, they will also consume amphibians, snails, and turtles to name a few. With a watchful eye, you may be able to spot these playful creatures at Se7en Wetlands.



# Secret Code

Use the key at the right to  
decode this secret message.

☆ ☹️ ÷ ♥️ ☀️ ✕ △ ÷ ☕ ☁️ ✕ ☾ ☸ ÷ ☹️ ↔ ÷

⚡️ ☹️ ≠ ☕ ☕ ☁️ ✕ ☾ ☕ ☐ ☐ ◆ ☾ ÷ ≠

△ ☕ ◆ ☕ ☁️ ☹️ ⚡️ ☹️ ☀️ ≠ ☕

⬠️ △ ☁️ ⬠️ ÷ △ ☾ ☕ ☹️ ☐ ◆ ☾ ☹️ △ ÷

☹️ ☁️ △ ☐ ☹️ ≠ ✕ △ ÷

A	☹️	☁️
B	⬠️	⬠️
C	☾	☐➡️
D	◆	△
E	÷	☀️
F	☹️	≠
G	☾	✕
H	☹️	↔
I	☕	⚡️
J	☹️	⬠️
K	♥️	☕
L	☾	↩️
M	☆	
N	☐	

ANSWER: Make sure you leave  
what you find, get rid of waste  
properly, and care for nature.

## TRUE/FALSE

1. All wetland islands are in freshwater oceans.
2. The wetlands are the planet's natural waste-water treatment facilities and carbon-storing champions.
3. The biggest risks to the wetlands is human activity, pests, and climate change.
4. Wetland waters go as deep as 6ft.

# First Aid

## Word scramble

First aid is very important.

A first aid kit can **prevent injuries** as well as **help** treat them.

*Unscramble the words to find first aid equipment.*

\_\_\_\_ \_  
n      d      A      d      B      a      i

\_\_\_\_ \_  
a      p      r      s      w

\_\_\_\_ \_  
r      C      m      a      r

\_\_\_\_ \_  
s      o      e      G      I      v



# Today's Weather Report

Draw your weather person and what they will say.

○ Wind  
○ No wind

○ Cloudy  
○ Not cloudy

○ Hot  
○ Cold  
○ Moderate



## Connect the Dots

Start at #1 and connect the dots in order to create one of the animals that lives here at Se7en Wetlands!

# Wetlands Word Search

Find each of the words in the puzzle. They may go any direction.

K	R	O	T	S	T	W	Y	R	D	G	D	K	G	J
S	W	A	M	P	Y	U	I	I	E	R	E	B	S	R
D	O	X	U	P	E	V	R	C	E	W	T	S	D	R
O	N	Q	F	P	E	S	R	T	R	P	J	S	E	U
R	C	A	I	R	E	B	F	C	L	N	I	H	M	E
V	F	M	L	W	I	Q	O	O	A	E	P	S	A	H
Y	Y	D	F	T	N	L	E	W	C	O	S	G	X	S
J	G	F	H	U	E	N	L	E	G	U	L	V	N	U
L	C	K	T	Y	Q	W	O	B	R	E	Z	M	J	B
I	B	P	V	S	H	M	T	E	F	T	E	O	N	M
K	Z	T	S	F	Q	H	N	A	R	S	I	Y	D	S
T	I	Q	K	F	I	I	K	R	P	P	J	W	C	L
D	I	Y	E	R	O	P	A	G	O	L	I	A	R	T
J	M	Q	F	A	S	V	C	W	F	K	K	I	D	G
X	E	F	V	S	M	S	K	C	N	U	Y	G	S	W

bear

bush

deer

eagle

gopher

river

stork

swamp

trail

tree

turtle

wetland

# Mad Lib

Have an adult read out the parts of speech for the blanks, and write the word you come up with! Then read the story back and see how silly you made it!

\_\_\_\_\_ through the wetlands and what do you \_\_\_\_\_?  
Verb (ends in -ing) Verb

Maybe some wood storks are \_\_\_\_\_ in the grass. How about  
Verb (ends in -ing)

some \_\_\_\_\_ alligators staring at me from underneath the  
Adjective

\_\_\_\_\_? Each animal lives \_\_\_\_\_ in their own  
Noun Adverb

natural habitat that consists of \_\_\_\_\_ native plants and grasses. Though  
Adjective

the adventure may seem as \_\_\_\_\_ as a bobcat runs, dig deeper like a  
Adjective

gopher tortoise into the wonders of the wetlands. What other \_\_\_\_\_  
Plural Noun

will you experience?

Or fill in the following blanks on your own to fill in the blanks above:

Verb (ends in -ing): \_\_\_\_\_

Verb: \_\_\_\_\_

Verb (ends in -ing): \_\_\_\_\_

Adjective: \_\_\_\_\_

Noun: \_\_\_\_\_

Adverb: \_\_\_\_\_

Adjective: \_\_\_\_\_

Adjective: \_\_\_\_\_

Plural Noun: \_\_\_\_\_

## Parts of Speech Review:

Noun: A person, place or thing

Verb: An action word (something you do)

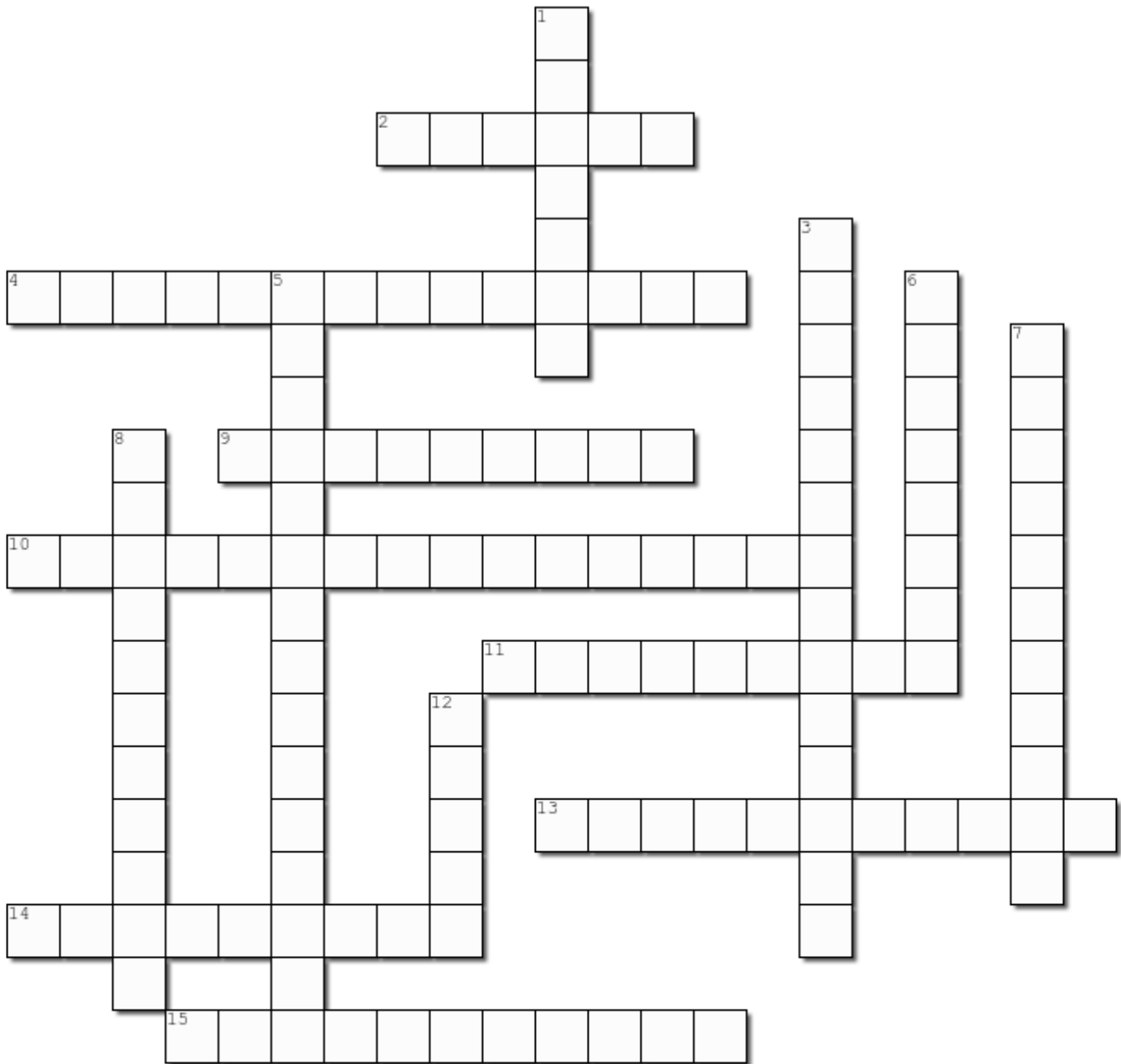
Adjective: A word that describes a noun

Adverb: A word that describes a verb

Plural = more than one

# Se7en Wetlands

Complete the crossword puzzle below



## Across

- 2. A brown cat that hides in trees and rarely attacks humans
- 4. (two words) This animal has a hard shell and walks at a slow pace
- 9. (two words) Our national bird
- 10. (two words) This bird has a red feathered body and is from the north
- 11. (two words) These have prickly needles that stay green all year
- 13. This animal starts as a caterpillar
- 14. (two words) This Bird has a red beak and a white feathered body
- 15. Plants with beautiful blossoms

## Down

- 1. A beautiful type of majestic butterfly
- 3. (three words) This bird has a dark blue feathered head and a grayish body
- 5. (two words) This bird is pink and has a rounded beak
- 6. These plants root in the soil and pop out of the water when they mature
- 7. (two words) A spider that is declared to be the queen of all spiders
- 8. (two words) A brown furred fuzzy bunny that lives in marshes
- 12. These animals have astonishing calls and clawed feet

*Congratulations!*

**This Certifies that**

(name)

has officially Explored the Seven Wetlands!

\_\_\_\_\_  
(ranger's signature)