

# Wetlands food web where the Alligator is top dog

---

Art Educator: Jean Howard “Miss Tuesday”  
Center for Creative Education, Art Educator  
Grades: 3-5  
April 2020

# What is a food web?



What is a food web? How does it function? What is the role of the alligator?

Discuss the wetlands food web. Draw the elements of the food web and design the paper bag hat.

Lesson sequence: 1) Break out the shapes for each element in the web.

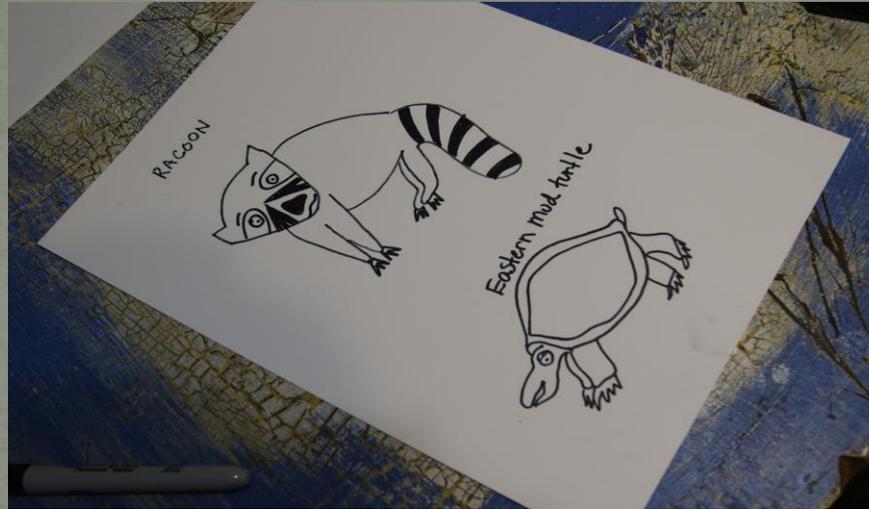
# The Sun



Materials needed :

White card stock paper, Sharpie pen, watercolors, brushes, cups, scissors, plastic wrap for shipping, large paper bag, stapler. Use glue gun, glue or tape. When drawing the sun add dotted lines to represent the sun's rays. Use many warm colors when you paint the sun with your watercolors.

# Raccoon and Mud Turtle



## Eastern Mud Turtle:

The round shape of the shell is the first shape to draw. Add the head and be sure to make the neck long. Make a pattern on top of the shell. (create your own pattern)

## Raccoon:

Make the eyes and draw the face first remembering to make the mask on the face. Add stripes to the tail.

# Blue Heron, Blue Gill & Southern Leopard Frog



Great Blue Heron:  
Make sure the beak  
is long and hooked  
and the legs are long  
too. The feathers  
should be fluffy and  
draw some fluffy  
feathers on the  
head.

Southern Leopard Frog:

Draw the face of the frog first making sure the head and mouth are large. Add the front legs and then extend the lumpy back and final back legs.

Bluegill:

Fins and tale are most important so draw the top fin first and then the tale. Add the fish face at the last.

# The Sun, Mosquito and Bladderwort

## Instructions:

Sun: Outline the circle and add strokes to look like the sun's rays.

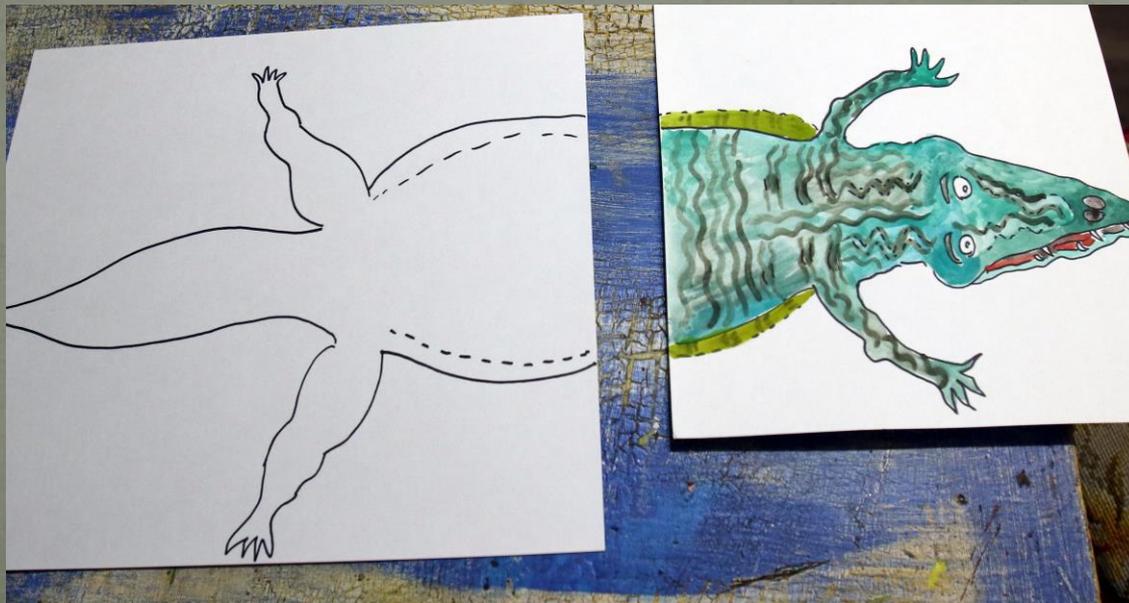
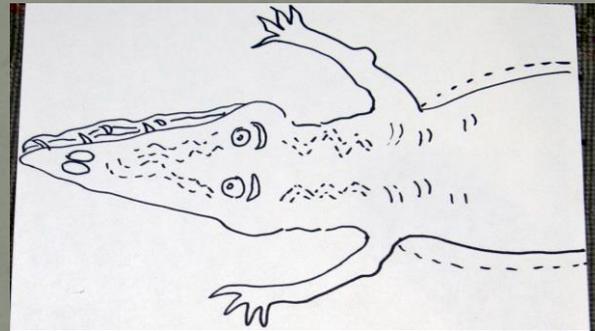
Bladderwort plant: make a soft round shape and add the flower extensions.

Mosquito: draw the back legs first and then add the front legs. Draw the body and head around the legs.



# Alligator

Draw the alligator on his stomach so that you can see his arms outstretched and part of his mouth. Make sure you draw the nose holes and add some texture with your Sharpie.

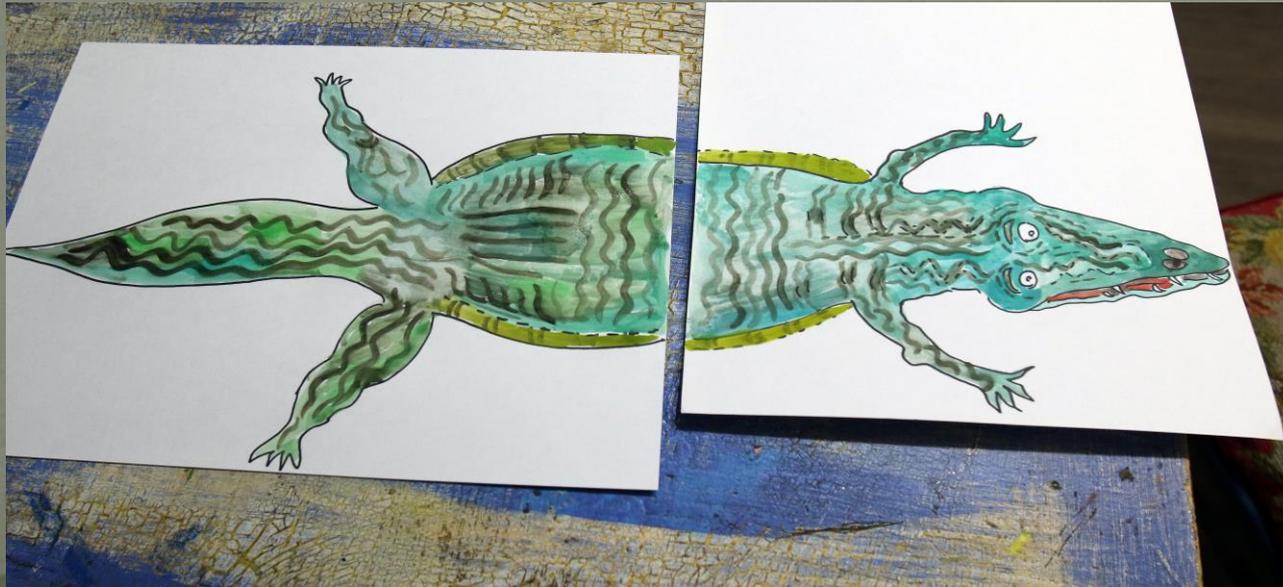


Draw the back end of the gator with strong back legs and a long tail. You will be attaching the two pieces with the bubble wrap. Make the front and back match in height.

# Use bubble wrap for the Alligator's back



Using water  
Colors  
paint the  
smooth  
side of the  
bubble wrap.  
It will take  
several coats  
but it will stick  
when it dries.



Staple the mailing bubbles to the drawing and your gator is a go



# Paper bag makes the hat



Take a large paper bag and roll up the bottom one time gently so you will not tear the ends. Roll up another time and fold over on one side to tighten the hat and staple. Fold the other side of the bag to make a dart and staple. The hat should fit your head.

# Watercolor the plants and animals of the food web



Using watercolors paint the elements of the web. The alligator will be many shades of green, dark green, brown and light green. Be creative. Cut out your elements and be ready to attach to the Paper bag hat.

# For more Alligator information:

- Websites- Alligator Food Web Hat
- Jean Howard CCE Teaching Artist – April 2020
- 3-5<sup>th</sup> grade
- 1. American Museum of Natural History: “OLOGY” for Kids and Families  
<http://www.amnh.org/ology>
- 2. Animal Classification Practice  
[http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/classification/kc\\_classification\\_main.htm](http://www.sheppardsoftware.com/content/animals/kidscorner/classification/kc_classification_main.htm)
- 3. Discovery Kids  
<http://kids.discovery.com/tell-me/animals>
- 4. Science Daily  
<http://www.sciencedaily.com>
- 5. Smithsonian National Zoological Park: Animal Photo Gallery  
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/PhotoGallery>
- 6. Smithsonian National Zoological Park: Animal Species  
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/AnimalIndex/default.cfm>
- 7. Video Clips of Hundreds of Animals  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals>
- *What Is an Amphibian?*, by Bobbie Kalman and Jacqueline Langille  
(Crabtree Publishing Company, 2005) ISBN 0865059527

# Attach and wear!



Using a hot glue gun if you have one, glue on your creations. If you do not have a glue gun handy just use Elmer's glue, a fresh glue stick or masking tape rolled to stick.

# Just a reminder:



The Center for Creative Education would love to hear from you so please send a photo of your work to: [info@cceflorida.org](mailto:info@cceflorida.org) and add your name, age and city where you live.

Please share your work with your social media pals and use the hashtag #CCEFlorida

We are so proud of you and we are eager to create more works of art with you.

Please be safe and TTFN – Ta Ta For Now.

Love to you and your family,  
Miss Tuesday.