The sun provides energy for all living things on Earth. Plants (producers) need air, water, and energy from the sun in order to make food for themselves. This process is called photosynthesis. Common plants in the wetland ecosystem are algae, phytoplankton, seaweed, and lily pads.

Algae is a plant that grows using energy from the sun. Plants use this energy to make their own food using air and water through a process called photosynthesis. Algae is common in an aquatic ecosystem, and is eaten by zooplankton, carp, and crayfish.
Marine worms are small animals that live in the dirt under water. Marine worms are decomposers, which means that they eat dead or decaying plants or animals and return the nutrients to the soil to be later used by growing plants. Because everything that is living eventually must die, you could say that marine worms eat all organisms in the aquatic environment (algae, crayfish, frogs, turtles, seaweed, beavers, snakes, herons, lily pads, zooplankton, carp, and phytoplankton)

Bacteria are microscopic organisms that exist in all environments. Bacteria are decomposers, which means that they eat dead or decaying plants or animals and return the nutrients to the soil to be later used by growing plants. Because everything that is living eventually must die, you could say that bacteria eat all organisms in the aquatic environment (algae, crayfish, frogs, turtles, seaweed, beavers, snakes, herons, lily pads, zooplankton, carp, and phytoplankton)
**Marine mushrooms** are a kind of fungus. Marine mushrooms are *decomposers*, which means that they eat dead or decaying plants or animals and return the nutrients to the soil to be later used by growing plants. Because everything that is living eventually must die, you could say that marine mushrooms eat all organisms in the aquatic environment (algae, crayfish, frogs, turtles, seaweed, beavers, snakes, herons, lily pads, zooplankton, carp, and phytoplankton).

**Seaweed** is a plant that grows using energy from the sun. Plants use this energy to make their own food using air and water through a process called *photosynthesis*. Seaweed is common in an aquatic ecosystem, and is eaten by crayfish, turtles, and beavers.
Lily pads are plants that grow using energy from the sun. Plants use this energy to make their own food using air and water through a process called photosynthesis. Lily pads are common in aquatic ecosystems, and are eaten by crayfish, turtles, and beavers.

Phytoplankton is a plant that grows using energy from the sun. Plants use this energy to make their own food using air and water through a process called photosynthesis. Phytoplankton is common in an aquatic ecosystem, and is eaten by zooplankton and crayfish.
Zooplankton are microscopic organisms that must find plants to eat in order to survive. In an aquatic environment, zooplankton eat phytoplankton and algae. Zooplankton are very small but are a main food source for many aquatic organisms, including crayfish.

Crayfish are animals that must find plants or small organisms to eat in order to survive. In the aquatic environment, crayfish will often eat plants like algae, phytoplankton, lily pads, or seaweed. They also eat the small organism zooplankton. Crayfish do need to be careful though, because they have a number of predators wanting to eat them. Possible predators are carp or turtles.
Beavers are animals that must find plants to eat in order to survive. In the aquatic environment, beavers will often eat plants like lily pads or seaweed. Because they live in water and on land, they do not have many predators.

Frogs are animals that must find small organisms to eat in order to survive. In the aquatic environment, frogs will often eat marine worms. Frogs do need to be careful though, because they have a number of predators wanting to eat them. Possible predators are turtles, snakes, or herons.
**Water snakes** are animals that must find other animals to eat in order to survive. In the aquatic environment, water snakes will often eat fish like carp, or other small animals like frogs. Water snakes do need to be careful though, because they have a number of predators wanting to eat them. Herons are a possible predator.

**Carp** are fish that must find plants or small organisms to eat in order to survive. In the aquatic environment, carp will often eat plants like algae, or small organisms like marine worms or crayfish. Carp do need to be careful though, because they have a number of predators wanting to eat them. Possible predators are snakes, or herons.
**Turtles** are animals that must find plants or small organisms to eat in order to survive. In the aquatic environment, turtles will often eat plants like lily pads or seaweed, or small animals like crayfish or frogs. Because of their protective shell, turtles do not have many predators.

**Herons** are birds that must find small animals to eat in order to survive. In the aquatic environment, herons will often eat carp, frogs, or even snakes. Because of their ability to fly, herons do not have many predators.