

# WETLAND MODEL: NATURE'S WATER FILTER

Wetlands act as natural filters to help purify water—sifting out toxins and other imperfections. This experiment can help show you how!

## You Will Need:

- Pop Bottle
- Scissors
- Coffee Filter
- Leaves
- Water
- Sand/ Dirt
- Rocks/ Pebbles
- Twigs

*(Pine needles or Cedar leaves work too!!)*

1. Cut your pop bottle in half, and unscrew the lid.
2. Flip the top half of your bottle upside-down in the bottom (shown here).
3. Put your coffee filter in the bottle, then a layer of dirt/ sand.
4. Add a layer of rocks/ pebbles, followed by leaves and twigs. These different layers represent aspects of a wetland that help filter the water - roots, plant life, soil, rocks, etc.
5. In a separate container, mix dirt, torn up leaves and broken pieces of twig into your water.
6. Pour your “dirty” water into your wetland model. Save a little for comparison at the end.
7. Notice how the water flows through slowly - this is another function of a wetland; they slow and regulate water flow.
8. Compare the filtered water at the bottom to your remaining “dirty” water.

