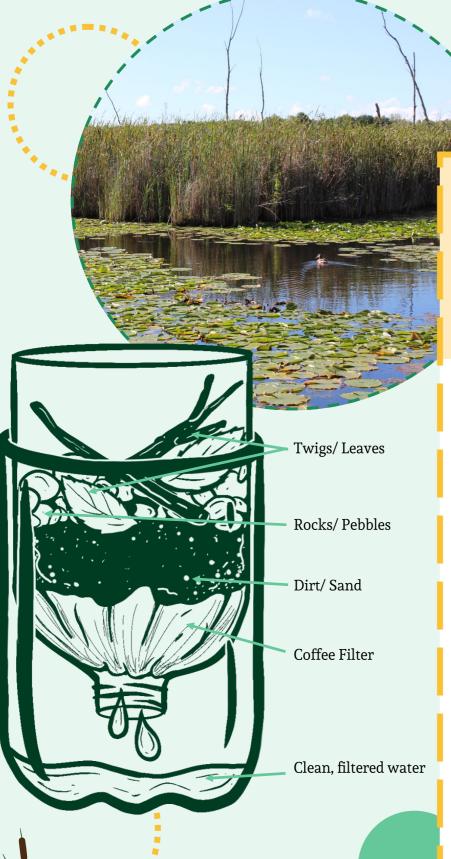
WETLAND MODEL: NATURE'S WATER FILTER



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.





