

# PROJECT!

## SUPPLIES

- \* local map (check your local library)
- \* science journal
- \* pencil

## BE A WETLAND DETECTIVE

Is there some kind of wetland near your home? Do you live near a river or lake? Or next to the ocean? Ask an adult to help you identify a local wetland to explore.

**1** On your map, identify the nearest body of water. Is it a lake? Creek? Pond? River? Visit the place where you think you might find a wetland. What do you see, hear, and smell? Record your observations in your science journal.

**2** If the area is dry, look at the bases of trees to see if you can find watermarks. Is the color on the bottom of the tree darker than it is farther up? That might mean that the base of the tree has been under water at some time.

**3** Observe the different types of plants that are present. Make drawings in your notebook. Ask an adult to help you find a guide to wetland plants at the library or online to see if the plants here are typical wetland plants.

**4** Do you see any animals, even small ones? Record your observations. Congratulations, you've become a wetland detective! Keep your notes and check them as you work through this book to determine if the places you visit are wetlands.

**THINK MORE:** Based on your observations, can you tell what kind of wetland this is? A bog, fen, marsh, or swamp? How do you know?