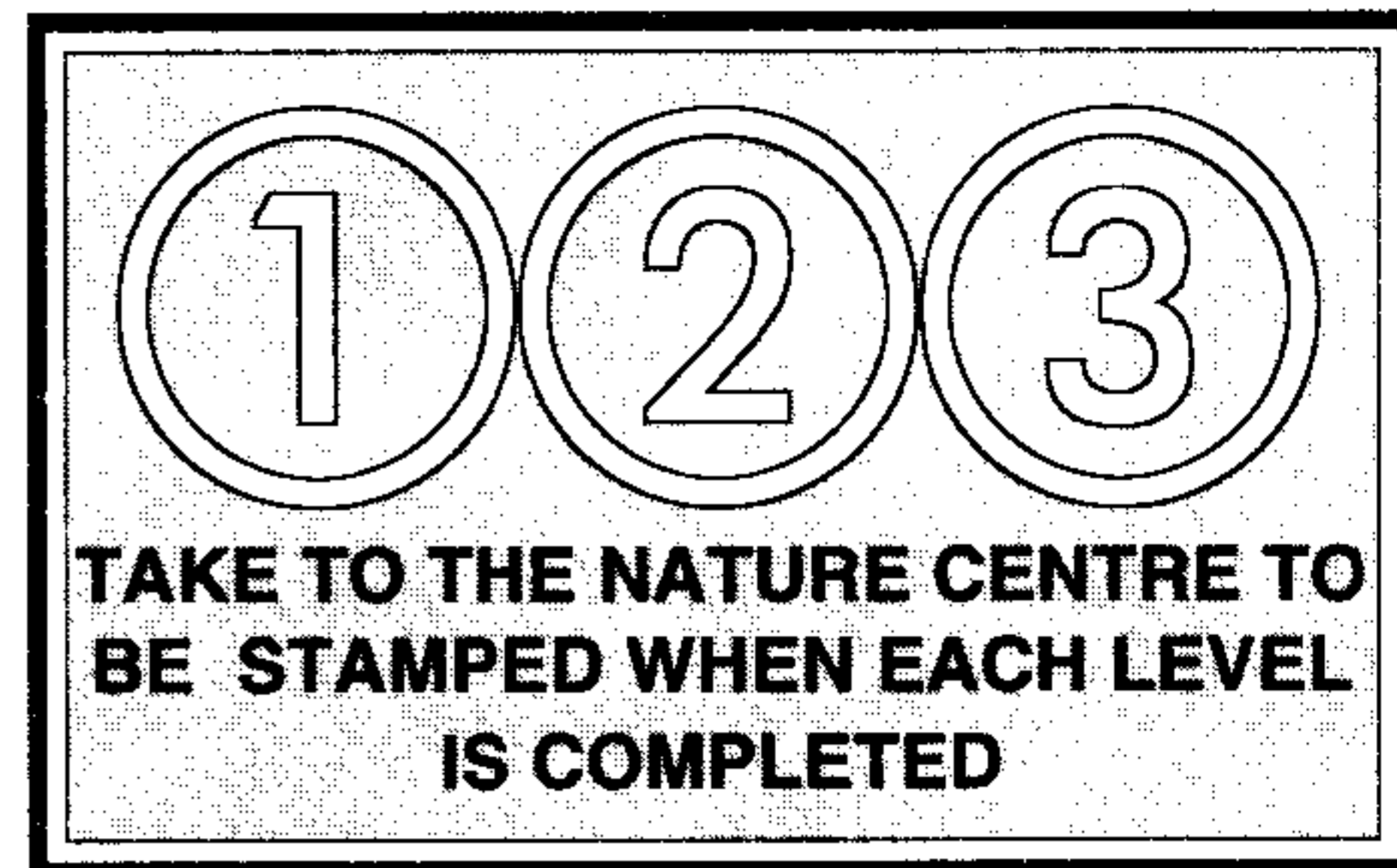


Sensing Life in the

MARSH



When I visit the marsh I'm amazed at all the different living things I find here. Unlike the open waters of Lake Ontario, Presqu'ile's marsh is sheltered from heavy waves. This means that plants can grow in the water and along the 'squishy' shore. These plants provide food for lots of animals like ducks, insects and snails. Larger animals such as herons and pike hunt the smaller animals. At Presqu'ile, marsh explorers use all their senses and travel the Marsh Boardwalk Trail to experience this habitat. The best time to visit is in the early morning or evening. To earn level three you also have to visit after dark!

1 Day Visit: Date/Time ____/____/____ **2** Day Visit: Date/Time ____/____/____

3 Night Visit: Date/Time ____/____/____

Sights

What can you spy with your little eye? The variety of life in the marsh is easy to see at the viewing stations and all along the boardwalk. **Record the interesting animals and plants you see.**

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3 (Night)
1. Something in the water	_____	_____	_____
2. Something on the water	_____	_____	_____
3. Something in the air	_____	_____	_____

Sounds

The marsh has music all of its own! Animals are sending messages to each other. Other noises may come from the wind and water or from other people. **Close your eyes and listen to the different sounds you can hear.**

Number of natural sounds Level **1** ____ Level **2** ____ Level **3** ____

Level **2** Smell and Touch

Pick up a handful of marsh muck from the edge of the water at the pond study area (across the bridge from the lookout tower). Smell it! **Describe the smell in your own words.**

You are smelling a gas called **methane**. It is given off by dead plants and animals rotting at the bottom of the marsh. This smelly gas is a sign that nature is recycling.

Touch

By feeling the stems of plants, you can use their shape to identify them. **Try to find these plants. Don't pick them. Just feel the bottom of the stems and circle the best description.**



- 1) Cattails have round stems.
- 2) Cattails have stems that feel like triangles with sharp edges.



- 1) Sedges have round stems.
- 2) Sedges have stems that feel like triangles with sharp edges.

Level 3 Taste

People shouldn't taste things in the marsh because there are things growing in the wild which can be poisonous. For the animals, however, the marsh has a yummy menu and yet, the Presqu'ile Diner is a dangerous place. Here **predators** eat other animals (**prey**) and then are often eaten themselves! A **food web** is a way of showing who eats what in the marsh. **Create your own food web by drawing arrows from the plants and animals that eat each other.** Note. The adult Midge does not eat anything during this final stage of its life.

