

## **What is a tidal marsh?**

### **Science**

- ?? A tidal marsh is a dynamic landscape in quasi-equilibrium with the antagonistic actions of plants, as controlled by the sun, and of the tides, as controlled by the moon.  
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- ?? The major parts of a marsh are the channel network, the marsh plain, and the ponds. Each of these major parts has many possible forms.  
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- ?? With increasing tidal elevation, or increasing distance from the tidal source, the relative, direct, geomorphic influence of the tides decreases, and the relative influence of plants and animals increases.

### **Aesthetics**

- ?? A tidal marsh is a thin place that gets thicker the closer you look. Mountains and valleys and rivers and lakes and the forest and the life they support are all compressed into small relief.  
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- ?? To see a tidal marsh, you have to remove yourself from ground level. The mind's eye is high above the arm's reach.
- ?? A tidal marsh is a soft, sticky, living tissue that grows on you. Once into tidal marshes, you can only extract your person. The mind continues to wander through, with long, complicated, sinuous, personal, thoughts.  
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### **Civics**

- ?? The natural tidal marsh is the fingerprint of the public trust.  
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- ?? Levees and tide gates and weirs comprise the grip of private enterprise.
- ?? The tidal marsh is a living, public, library.  
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- ?? Ecological health is the state of our ecosystems relative to our shared ecological goals, and everything we do to achieve our goals is ecological restoration, meaning the restoration of ecological good health. The question is: what are our ecological goals? The answer is a part of culture, and culture is more than science.