



What lives and grows in a wetland?

Ojibwe lands have always been very rich with nibi (water). There are many zaaga'iganan (lakes), ziibiwan (rivers), and of course, Gichigami (Lake Superior).

Because of these, there are lots of places where land and water overlap with each other called wetlands.

Some of these wetlands have lots of big trees and are called a waabashkikiig (swamp or marsh), and others have few trees and are called mashkiig (bogs or peatland).

Wetlands have a huge role in our environment because they are home to lots of plants, the Ojibwe people have used these plants for hundreds of years.

Color the plants

pitcher plant



Omakakiwidaasan (pitcher plant) can only be found in acidic bogs. The leaves at the bottom curl up into tall bowls or “pitchers” where little manidoonsag (insects) get stuck and eaten by the plant, and it grows one red flower way up above the pitchers so the pollinating manidoonsag don't fall in. Ojibwe children used to use these plants as toys and called them “frog leggings.”

cranberry



Aniibimin (cranberry) is a low evergreen vine. It has small pink flowers that look like tiny shooting stars and grows edible berries that stay on the vine through winter. Ojibwe people ate these berries raw or drank them in a tea. The plant could also be used to help with nausea.



hoary willow



Several types of oziisigobiminzh (willow) can be found in the mashkiig, including the the hoary willow and the balsam willow. Newer branches on the hoary willow are yellow to brown with lots of little white hairs. The balsam willow's buds and leaves smell like balsam, hence the name! Like some other willow species, both oziisigobiminzhiig were used by Ojibwe people for stomach problems and fainting, and the branches could be woven into baskets.

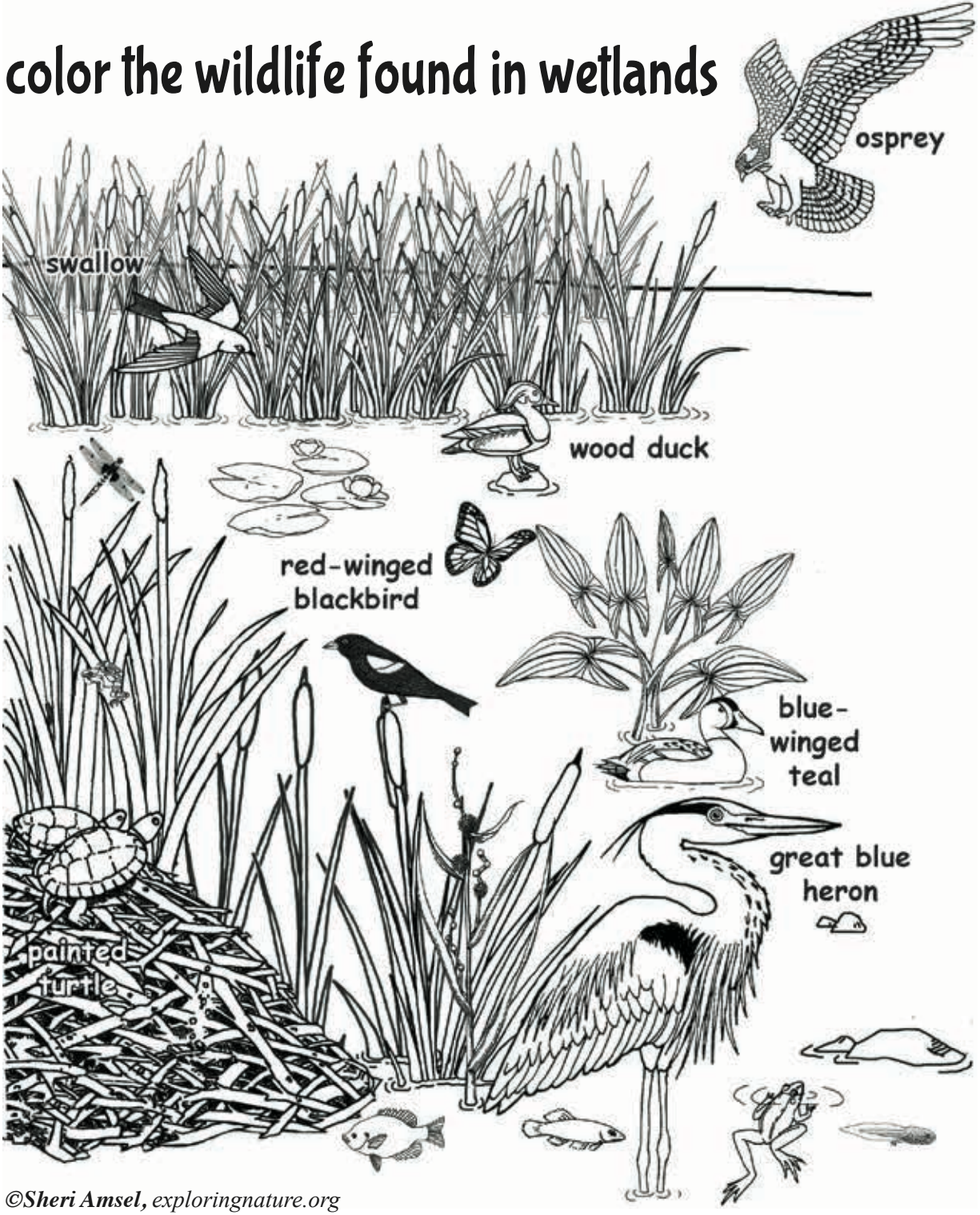
balsam willow



Balsam willow photos courtesy of © Arthur Haines, Native Plant Trust.

Featured plants are from the book *Plants Used by the Great Lakes Ojibwa* ©1993, published by the GLIFWC. The book can be purchased at tinyurl.com/bdesvfxk.

color the wildlife found in wetlands



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