

# Wood Stork Swamp

# Galapagos Giants



This book examines some of the issues surrounding the conservation of animal habitats from both a historical and present-day perspective. The fiction text looks at the effects of development on a swamp, and the non-fiction text explains the history of the Galapagos Islands and describes three of the amazing creatures that live there.

## Big Ideas

Using these two titles, your students can explore and make links between the following big ideas:

- Animals have special features that allow them to live in a habitat.
- Some animals have unusual life cycles.
- Animals and people sometimes compete for space and resources.
- People settling in an area can endanger an animal's habitat.

## Fiction

### Wood Stork Swamp

by Mandy Hager

#### Summary

In this story, the narrator recalls his childhood growing up near a swamp and the events that led to the destruction of the wood storks' habitat.

#### Features of the Text

- Realistic fiction in the form of a memoir
- Descriptive language
- Factual information about the wood storks' habitat
- Main events occur over a long period of time

#### Purpose

*Wood Stork Swamp* can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated non-fiction title;
- exploring the factual information in a fiction text;
- sequencing the main events;
- forming and supporting opinions;
- discussing the importance of sequence in a narrative.

#### Guided Reading Summary

##### Introducing the text

Discuss the illustration on the cover of the book and explore the students' knowledge of a swamp habitat and its surrounding environment.

– *What do you think is happening in the picture?*

##### Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4.

– *What does the narrator mean when he talks about "the balance of the land"?*

– *Why do you think his grandparents were worried?*

Ask the students to read to the end of page 8 to find out how the wood storks' habitat is threatened.

– *What special features help the wood storks to live in the swamp?*

– *What do you think the strangers were doing at the swamp?*

The students can now read the rest of the story. Ask them to think about what they would have done if they were the main character's mother.

Discuss the sequence of events in the story and the ways in which the author has shown the passing of time.

#### Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 61 to record the story's events and their consequences
- make a timeline to show the sequence of events in the story
- design a poster that provides information about wood storks and their habitat.