

Activity 1

Characteristics of Hydrophytes

Materials needed:

Magnifying glass, scissors, leaf from cat-tail or similar wetlands plant.

Procedure:

1. Collect some leaves off of some typical wetlands plants. Cat-tails are good plants to use.
2. Cut out about an inch long piece of the leaf.
3. Use your magnifying glass to observe the leaf.

Hydrophytes have large air spaces that can be observed running up through the leaf. These large spaces allow the plant to transfer oxygen down to the roots. Root systems in



these plants are usually under water and are standing in oxygen poor soil. The air spaces are an adaptation to deal with these conditions. These spaces also provide strength

to the leaf so it can remain upright in the soft, wet soils.



Draw what you see in the magnifying glass.

