Wetland Soils in Living Color:

Developing a Soil Profile Diagram

1. Once your team completes investigation of your soil sample, develop a diagram of the soil layers in your sample from surface to the lowest depth, including examples of surface life based on evidence. Include in your diagram:

* Description of physical characteristics of each soil level. (Can include sketch of relative particle size and color of material between layers.)
* Identify organic and inorganic components in your soil profile.
* Show and describe how to think water will flow through your soil profile.

1. Once your diagram is completed, discuss the following questions with your team:
2. How does the soil at the bottom of the hole differ from that at the top? What might account for the variation?
3. How does the physical characteristics of your soil sample relate to the biological life of the sample site?
4. Is there any evidence of chemical characteristics in your soil – and how might it relate to the biological life of the sample site?
5. What conditions that could contribute to soil color in your sample?
6. How do the characteristics of your soil sample relate to storm run-off?