The Freshwater Marsh at Playa Del Rey

TASK

The Phenomenon

A freshwater marsh is an area that is continuously or frequently flooded with a few feet or more of fresh water. Take a few minutes to watch a video about a freshwater marsh that is located in Playa del Rey near Los Angeles, California. As you watch the video, write down some things you notice and wonder about.

Things I **noticed**…	Things I **wonder** about…

The Task

The video you watched included some information about the plants and animals found in the marsh. It also told the story of how this marsh was created to help deal with the pollution that is produced by the nearby housing developments. However, many residents of these housing developments have complained about some aspects of the marsh despite all its benefits. Some of these residents want all the mosquitoes in the area removed. Others want to remove the algae and other weedlike plants in the marsh because they think the water is not blue enough. Still other residents think the ducks in and around the marsh are a problem because they are damaging their lawns.

The removal of the mosquitoes, algae, plants, or birds from the marsh may affect the survival of the other organisms that live there. Therefore, these residents need more information about the interactions between the plants and animals in this ecosystem and what will happen if one or more of the organisms that live in the marsh are removed. Your goal in this investigation is to first create a food web for this marsh and then use it to figure out how removing certain organisms will affect the other organisms that live there. The guiding question of this investigation is:

Which removed population would have the biggest effect on the marsh food web?

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Initial Ideas

Before you start this investigation, take a few minutes to think about the plants and animals that might live in a freshwater marsh, such as the one in Playa del Rey. Then draw a model in the space below to show how you think these plants and animals interact with each other. Be sure to include labels to help explain your thinking.

Some **ideas** that I have…

Now list some things that you think will be important to learn more about during this investigation in the space below.

Some **things** that I want to know more about…

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