

Deep in the Swamp

Read this story from our LEAD 21 Unit 6 all about habitats.

Use a highlighter, marker, or crayon to find action words (verbs) that are in the present and in the past.

Hint: Splash (verb in present) Splashed (verb in the past)

For fun: Read it more than once for fluency and act out the animal actions.

Deep in the swamp in the warm morning sun
Lived a mother river otter and her little pup one.
“Splash,” said the mother. “I splash” said the one.
So they splashed and they played in the warm morning sun.

Deep in the Swamp where the never wets grew
Lived a mother snapping turtle and her little turtles two.
“Swim,” said the mother. “We swim,” said the Two.
So they swam through the prairies where the never wets grew.

Deep in the swamp in a hollow cypress knee
Lived a mother flame bird and her little chicks three.
“Sweet Sweet,” trilled the mother. “Sweet Sweet” trilled the Three.
So they trilled loud and long in their hollow cypress knee.

Deep in the swamp in a thicket on the shore
Lived a mother marsh rabbit and her little bunnies four.
“Snooze,” said the mother. “We snooze,” said four.
So they snoozed all day long in their thicket on the shore.

Deep in the swamp where the water lilies thrive
Lived a mother alligator and her little gators five.
“Bask,” said the mother. “We bask,” said the five.
So they basked in the sun where the water lilies thrive.

Deep in the swamp in a nest built of sticks.
Lived a mother blue heron and her little chicks six.
"Soar," said the mother. "We soar," said the six.
So they soared through the sky near their nest built of sticks.

Deep in the swamp where the cypress reach to heaven
Lived a mother damselfly and her little flies seven.
"Dry," said the mother. "We dry," said the seven.
So they dried their new wings where the cypress reach to heaven.

Deep in the swamp where the cattails grow straight
Lived a mother bullfrog and her little froglets eight.
"Jump," said the mother. "We jump," said the eight.
So they jumped through the shallows where the cattails grow
straight.

Deep in the swamp where the bamboo vines twine
Lived a mother rat snake and her little snakes nine.
"Climb," said the mother. "We climb," said the nine.
So they climbed up a pine where the bamboo vines twine.

Deep in the swamp in an underwater den
Lived a mother crayfish and her little crayfish ten
"Scurry," said the mother. "We scurry," said the ten.
So they scurried after tadpoles near their underwater den.