

Answers to the Student Worksheet for the Salt Marsh Virtual Field Trip

Please answer the following questions.

1. What characteristics define a Salt Marsh?
 - * *found around the world*
 - * *located only along the coast*
 - * *flooded by saline (salty) water*
 - * *better developed as you move further south in South Carolina*
2. Where is the salt shrub thicket zone found and what type of vegetation can be found there?
 - * *before you enter the salt marsh, between the mainland and the salt marsh, on higher ground*
 - * *shrubs, small trees, and grasses*
3. Give an example of a plant found in the salt shrub thicket and tell me something interesting you found out about this species.
 - * *yaupon - Ilex vomitoria, small evergreen shrub with berries that are red when ripe, young dried leaves contain caffeine, Native Americans drank a tea made from the young and old leaves called the "black drink", caused vomiting when consumed as part of a cleansing ritual.*
 - * *groundsel - shrub that grows to about 8 feet in height, leaves often remain greenish into winter, differs from marsh elder in that they have alternate leaves not opposite leaves, called consumption weed because it is used to treat that disease.*
 - * *red cedar - aromatic evergreen with prickly needles, produces aromatic oil that prevents attack from fungi, wood does not rot, wood used for shingles and fenceposts, oil also discourages attacks from insects, used in clothing chests to prevent insects from attacking clothes, also used in the past to make lead pencils, cedar waxwings eat the cones off this tree.*
 - * *wax myrtle - aromatic evergreen shrub, Myrtle Beach is named for this plant, originally grew from the pine flatwoods to the salt shrub thicket, in colonial days, the berries were collected and boiled down to release the wax, the wax was then used to make candles that were fragrant and green in color, bark from the roots were used to make tea which can induce vomiting when taken in large doses (emetic), root bark dried and pulverized was used to treat colds.*
4. Where is the black needle rush zone located?
 - * *transition zone between salt shrub thicket and the salt marsh*