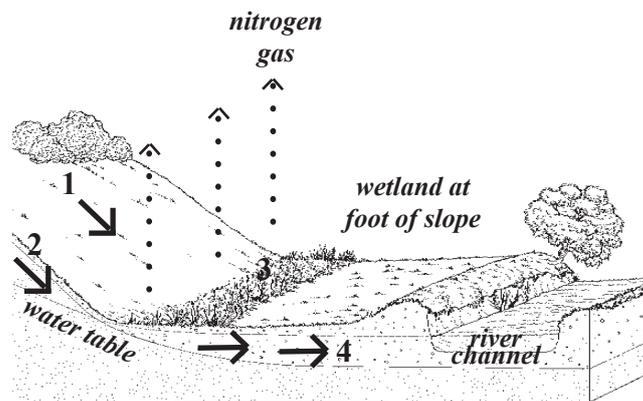


# Wetlands

## *Nutrient Stripping*

Wetlands often occur at the foot of slopes where water emerges because the water table is close to the surface.



1. Polluted water moves to the wetland on the surface
2. Polluted water moves to the wetland underground
3. Bacteria in the wetland break down harmful chemicals
4. Purified water moves underground to the river

Naturally occurring “denitrifying bacteria” in the wetlands break down harmful nitrates into nitrogen gas.

Polluted waters from agricultural activities can be cleaned naturally in wetlands and buffer zones before they reach the watercourses.