



Wetlands Habitat

3RD GRADE • 4TH GRADE

SUMMER LESSONS



Extended Learning Partnership

Wetlands

Today, you learned about wetlands. Many plants and animals make their home in wetlands, which usually have plenty of water and food. But, living in a wetland can still be a challenge. The water level in a wetland can change quickly and may even switch between fresh water and salt water. The animals in a wetland can change, too. Many animals only stop in wetlands as they move from one place to another during their migration, a big move they make every year. Plants and animals in wetlands need to be able to adjust to a life that is sometimes wet, sometimes dry, sometimes salty, and always changing. Different parts of their body, both inside and outside, can help them survive.

Activity:

- Look at these two living things from wetlands. Read the sentences about them and answer the question.
- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/stonebird/2703279602/>
 - This is a plant called saltgrass. Saltgrass grows in wetlands where the water is sometimes salty. If the plants get too much salt, they may die. Thankfully, they have special salt glands in their leaves that get rid of very salty water. Can you see the leftover salt on their leaves? Question: If you found saltgrass growing near a pond that only had fresh water, would you still find salt on its leaves? Explain your answer to someone at home.
- <https://pixabay.com/photos/american-coot-bird-wildlife-nature-1771978/>
 - You are watching a group of grey and black ducks swim in a pond. When they come out of the pond and onto the land, you notice they don't waddle like ducks, they walk like chickens. Then, you see their feet. They aren't ducks at all! These are American coots, birds who live and eat both in the water and on land. Question: Why do the feet of the American coot look the way they do? Share at least one idea with someone at home. Use information from the text or the wetlands video to support your idea.

Writing prompt:

Think about one of your favorite outdoor places. It could be your yard, your favorite park, or your school's playground. What would happen if that place suddenly became a wetland? As you write, think about:

- What would happen to the plants and animals who live there now?
- Would new plants or animals come?
- What would you have to change to use the space?



Wetlands

Math:

- While looking out at the flamingos at the zoo, Jake noticed they were standing in groups. He saw four groups of seven flamingoes. How many flamingoes did Jake see at the zoo?
- An alligator had 702 teeth in their entire lifetime. If they had 9 different sets of teeth, then how many teeth do they have at once?

Check for Understanding:

- Why are a duck's webbed feet good for survival?

