



YorkshireWater

Wonderful wetlands

Wetlands are a combination of land and water, such as swamps, bogs and marshes. They play an important part in nature, supporting a diverse range of animals and plants. And, often located near large bodies of water like rivers and lakes, they can also help to filter and purify water and prevent flooding too.

Wetlands can be destroyed when they are drained for agriculture or building developments. Others are converted into recreational water facilities, such as boating lakes.

If a habitat is destroyed, then the wildlife that is dependant upon it is lost.

Recreating wetlands in the city is just one of the options Living with Water is looking at to increase biodiversity and slow the flow of water to reduce flood risk.

Wetland game

The key learning outcomes for this game are to understand that destroying habitats results in the loss of wildlife and that creatures adapted to live in a particular habitat need it in order to survive.

You will need...

- A group of more than 10
- Four or five mats each measuring approximately two metre square, or you could use plastic hoops, sheets of fabric or nylon rope (if you use fabric, you could paint wetland scenes on each piece)
- This game can be used for wetlands or any other habitat, just make sure you only use one habitat for each game



LIVING with WATER

Play!

Here's what to do...

1. Place the mats around the space being used (at least five metres apart)
2. Tell the group that each mat represents a wetland
3. Give each person the name of a wetland animal; for example, a type of bird or water animal
4. Each member of the group needs to find a space on a wetland
5. Whenever you say 'move' the group needs to find another wetland (on migration), moving like their chosen animal - perhaps pretending to fly or swim
6. Do this three or four times. The next time you say 'move' remove one of the mats. Tell the group that the wetland has been destroyed. Do this again. Any participant who cannot get onto a mat is dead - there is a maximum capacity for wetlands (only enough food to support a certain number of birds and animals). Repeat again until there is only one wetland left. When you destroy the final wetland, everybody is dead.
7. Emphasise the need for conserving wetlands, keeping them clean and undisturbed for species that are adapted to live there. Destroy the wetlands and you kill the birds and other animals that rely on them.

Why not make cards illustrating species that use wetlands - one picture per card, one card per participant?

