

Pre field trip activities

- Create a mural of a wetland along your classroom wall. Add in details such as plants, insects, birds etc. as you learn about them.
- Do a KWL chart (what we know, what we want to know, what we have learned). Review this chart after the field trip.
- As a class, generate a list of all the wildlife you may discover during the field trip. Review this list after the field trip.
- Examine the roles of people who work in or help to look after natural areas. Who are they? What do they do?
- Find out what the students know about DOC.
- Is there a DOC office in their area? What sorts of things does a DOC ranger do? Check out the DOC web site www.doc.govt.nz

Post field trip activities

- Revisit the activities you did before your fieldtrip. Make any changes needed.
- Adopt a wetland and arrange for your school to become guardians (kaitiaki) of this area. Plan regular rubbish clean ups, planting of native plants etc.
- Develop a strategy to help change peoples' behaviour and attitudes to promote the protection of wetlands. Designing posters may be a good first step. Ask your local library, DOC office or council to display them.
- Write a short book, create a PowerPoint presentation or a Kid Pix slideshow titled All about Wetlands.
- Make a poster/s related to wetlands. Topics could be: Wetlands on the West Coast, Biodiversity of Wetlands, Wetland Ecosystems, Users and Uses of Wetlands, Protection of Wetlands.
- Write a song/rap about the importance of wetlands.
- Create a restoration plan for a wetland and write an explanation.
- Create some poetry. It may be about your experiences at the wetland, the value of wetlands, what senses the field trip teacher picked up or focus on a plant or animal.
- Research a wetland plant or animal and share your information in a report or poster (it may be one you did or did not see on the field trip).
- Write a story about .A day in the life of a _____ (longfin eel/tuna, Wrybill/ngutu parore, Scree skink/mokomoko etc).
- Make a wanted poster for an introduced pest (plant or animal). Describe the damage that the pest is doing and suggest an ecological reward for its elimination.
- Develop statements about natural and social events that might affect a wetland in the future. Have others rate these statements on a scale of 1-5, giving reasons for their answers. This information may be used to develop an action-orientated activity that looks at the range of attitudes and values expressed.