Name.....

Curriculum Area: Science **Level 3 & 4**	Strand: Nature of Science	Background Page: Monitoring a Wetland
Achievement Aims:	Investigating in Science - Level 3-4: *Ask questions, find evidence, explore simple models, and carry out appropriate investigations to develop simple explanations.*	

Wetland Habitat Survey

How healthy is that wetland?

Wetland Name: ..... Date: .....

Using your observations and the tables below, find the description that most matches the type of habitat in and around this wetland for scoring its health.

Question	Excellent Score 8	Good Score 6	Fair Score 4	Poor Score 2	Your Score
Are the edges protected by vegetation?	All edges are covered with native trees and shrubs	¾ is covered with trees and shrubs	About ½ is covered in trees and shrubs	Less than ¼ is covered.	
Is the wetland open to land run-off?	No road, farm or industrial pollution drains into wetland	A little farm, road or industrial pollution drains into wetland	Occasional farm, road or industrial pollution drains into wetland	Frequent pollution draining from animals, roads and/or industry	
Does the wetland provide habitat for wetland life?	There are plenty of native reeds and sedges providing habitats	Some reeds and sedges provide habitats	One or two reeds and sedges provide habitats	No reeds or sedges provide obvious habitat	
Can native fish and eels access the wetland?	The inflow and outflow are closely connected to a river or stream and not blocked by culverts	The inflow and outflow are eventually connected to a river or stream without culverts	The inflow and outflow are not obviously connected to a river or stream and there are culverts	The inflow and outflow are not connected to a river or stream and they have many culverts	

Subtotal

Using your senses:

Question	Good Score 6	Fair Score 4	Poor Score 2	Your score
How does the water smell?	Like it is fresh and natural	Like it is a bit swampy with old vegetation	Stinks a bit like rotten vegetation	
How does the water look?	Like it is fresh and clear	Like it is muddy	Like it has lots of algae in it	
How does the water feel?	Cool and fresh	Slightly warm and a bit stagnant	Warm and gritty	

Total

Rating: (Shade the rating that matches your total score)

Score total	Rating
0 - 24	Poor = the sort that gives wetlands a bad name
25 - 40	Fair = A wetland that needs some help
41 - 50	Good = A normal wetland that could do with more plants around it.
51 - 60	Excellent = a natural healthy wetland

Living Things: List the living things you see or hear:

On the water: ……

……

In the water: ……..

……

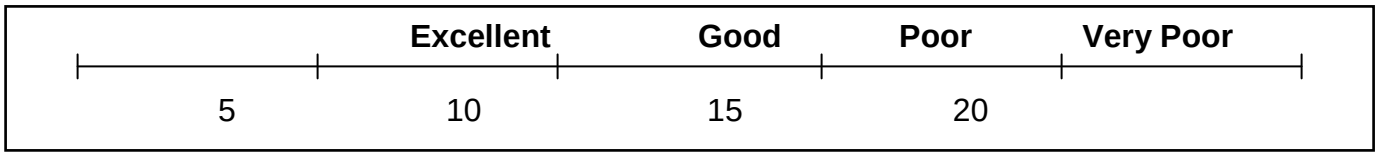
Around the water: ……

……

Take the temperature: How cool is the water?

The maximum temperature reached by a wetland during the day is important for its health. Some native fish cannot survive in temperatures above 25º

1. Take the air temperature first
2. Take the water temperature three times for a minute each
3. Readings must be similar to be acceptable



Water Clarity: How clear is the water?

1. Put water in bucket without disturbing the sediment on the bottom of the wetland.
2. Pour water into the clarity tube.
3. Check how far you can see through the water – check measurements
4. Do this three times and record.

1.	2.	3.

Very good = 100cm+ Fair = 60 - 80cm Poor = < 50 cm

Other Observations: What do you notice about the:

Surrounding soil? **……**

Drains affecting the wetland? **……**

Nearby wetland features? **……..**

Submerged aquatic plants? **……..**

What uses does this wetland have? For birds, fish, people, surrounding land.

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Wetland Description *(Use the information you have gathered such as location, connection to river/stream, lake or sea; size; surrounding land use; condition; other features etc to write a detailed description of the wetland)*

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Sketch wetland features: Include a record of size, surroundings, plant life - in and outside of water, inflow and outflow (⟶)

Site name: ……

Arrow
for North

Key:

Name: …… **School/Class: ……** **Date: ……**