

Wonderful Wetland Wildlife – KS1 & KS2

Overview

Description	An activity to introduce wetland wildlife to your pupils. This activity is based on film footage of wildlife in the Avalon Marshes.
Time	20-30 minutes, depending on how much discussion you include
Curriculum	<p>Science (Y1): identify, name and compare common animals; identify and name a variety of common plants.</p> <p>Science (Y2): identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for their basic needs; identify a variety of plants and animals in their habitats.</p> <p>Science (Y4): recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; food chains.</p> <p>Science (Y5): life cycles</p> <p>Science (Y6): classification; adaptation</p>
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spot and identify various wetland animals, birds, insects and plants Familiarise pupils with the wetland habitat and its wildlife
Learning outcomes	<p>At the end of this introduction all pupils should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> name at least one wetland plant from the Avalon Marshes name at least one wetland animal from the Avalon Marshes name at least three wetland birds from the Avalon Marshes name at least one wetland insect from the Avalon Marshes
Linked resources	<p>Introduction to the Avalon Marshes</p> <p>Pick & Mix – Awesome Adaptations; Noses – A Wildlife Game; Water in the Wetlands; Colouring the Marshes; Creative Response to Wildlife; Avalon Marshes Quiz</p> <p>Specialist equipment – Avalon Marshes Water Model; Avalon Marshes Floor Map</p>



Teachers' notes -

Use this video activity in conjunction with one of the Avalon Marshes introductory presentations and/or workshop.

Show your pupils the Avalon Marshes Wildlife film (accessed via the Avalon Marshes website either to stream or download). Watch the film again, and ask them to write down all of the different animals they see. They may want to see it a third time.

Go through the answers (following pages) with them – there are some facts about each species.

Extension ideas:

- Watch the film looking out for different plants in the Marshes.
- Make a simple food chain from the list.
- Do further research into a chosen species.
- Draw a favourite species. Pupils could also label this species' features and adaptations.

Plants that can be seen in the film –

- Reeds (good view of reeds growing in water between 00:34s and 00:46s)
- Trees
- Fern
- Stinging nettles
- Hay (cut grass!)
- Flowering plants (the hoverfly is on Hemp Agrimony)
- Ivy
- Grass

Animals, birds and insects seen in the Avalon Marshes Wildlife film (1-11)

	Time	Species	Type	C/H/O	Notes / Facts
1	0:06	Tortoiseshell butterfly	Insect	Herbivore	The caterpillar eats leaves and the adult drinks flower nectar
2	0:08	Swan	Bird	Omnivore	They eat aquatic vegetation and molluscs, small fish, frogs and worms. They have a long bendy neck to help them catch prey.
3	0:11	Coot	Bird	Omnivore	They eat aquatic vegetation, snails and insect larvae
4	0:13	Great White Egret	Bird	Carnivore	They use their long spikey beaks to spear fish, frogs and insects. They have long beaks, long necks and long legs.
5	0:13	Little Egret	Bird	Carnivore	They eat fish, molluscs, worms and crustaceans. They have long necks, legs and beaks.
6	0:19	Bittern	Bird	Carnivore	They eat fish, amphibians and insects. They are very well camouflaged against the reeds.
7	0:21	Mayfly	Insect	N/A	Their nymphs are aquatic and eat algae, weeds and detritus. The adults live for such a short time that they don't eat, they only reproduce!
8	0:26	Grey Heron	Bird	Carnivore	A heron's head appears in the film at the bottom of the screen. Herons eat fish, ducklings and small mammals (e.g. water voles, and rodents on land). Their long necks, legs and beaks help them hunt in water.
9	0:26	Dragonfly	Insect	Carnivore	A dragonfly is on the branch and flies off (in the film). They eat other flying insects, and their aquatic nymphs eat any aquatic creature smaller than themselves.
10	0:34	Kingfisher	Bird	Carnivore	They mainly eat fish but also frogs, worms, reptiles and insects.
11	0:46	Hoverfly	Insect	Herbivore	This is not a bee – note lack of prominent antennae that it has (different to a bee). They eat nectar and pollen.

Animals, birds and insects seen in the Avalon Marshes Wildlife film (12-22)

	Time	Species	Type	C/H/O	Notes / Facts
12	0:52	Slow worm	Animal (reptile)	Carnivore	It's not a snake, it's a legless lizard! It eats slugs, snails, earthworms, spiders and insects.
13	1:01	Adder	Animal (reptile)	Carnivore	This IS a snake. They eat rodents, frogs, chicks (of ground nesting birds), lizards and newts.
14	1:08	Roe deer	Animal (mammal)	Herbivore	This one is a young fawn. They eat fruit, berries, ground plants, holly, bramble, ivy, and low-hanging tree branches.
15	1:24	Fox	Animal (mammal)	Carnivore	This one is a cub (young one). They eat earthworms, birds and mammals, beetles and other insects.
16	1:40	Badger	Animal (mammal)	Omnivore	A nocturnal animal that mostly eats earthworms, but also slugs, fruit, nuts, rodents, frogs, grubs, wheat and corn.
17	1:46	Otter	Animal (mammal)	Carnivore	There are two otter clips: one in the dark and one in daylight. They primarily eat fish.
18	2:01	Red Devon cows	Animal (mammal)	Herbivore	The only non-wild animal in the video. They are farmed in the area and graze on the rich grasslands in the Marshes during the summer months.
19	2:05	Human	Animal (mammal)	Depends on the person!	Humans are an important animal in the Marshes! People live in the Marshes, farming the land and managing reserves for wildlife. They also visit for lots of reasons. Why do you think people visit the Marshes?
20	2:17	Swallows	Bird	Carnivore	They eat flying insects – dragonflies, mayflies, crane flies, moths, butterflies, beetles, ants, wasps. They also eat spiders and worms.
21	2:28	Starlings	Bird	Omnivore	Here you see them in a large murmuration (the name for a flock of starlings, because of the noise they make). Murmurations in the Avalon Marshes have been known to include several millions of individuals. They eat insects, worms, grasshoppers and snails, as well as fruit, berries and seeds.
22	2:38	Duck	Bird	Omnivore	You can see them flying over the lake below the starlings. They eat grains and plants, as well as insects and molluscs.