



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Up stream – Downstream
Wetlands connect us all
World Wetlands Day 2009

15 questions for kids and teachers

1. What is a wetland? Name 3 different types of wetlands.
2. Name your nearest wetland. What type of wetland is it? Name 3 different kinds of animals and 3 different kinds of plants that live there.
3. The Ramsar Convention is a treaty between governments to look after wetlands. Why is it called the Ramsar Convention?
4. Name two Ramsar sites in New Zealand. Why are they of international importance?
5. Name the longest river in the world? How many countries does it flow through?
6. What is the longest river in New Zealand? Name 3 ways in which the river is used by people.
7. What changes have occurred to prevent our longest river running freely from source to sea?
8. Think about a river close to you. How clean do you think the water is? Name 3 ways in which the river may have become polluted.
9. Name the biggest lake in New Zealand. Name 3 ways in which the lake is used by people.
10. What is the main pollutant spoiling the water quality of our biggest lake and what is being done about it?
11. What is a river basin/catchment area?
12. Every body lives in a river basin/catchment area even in the middle of a city. What are 3 things that wetlands do that benefit people living downstream in the catchment?

13. Where does your household water come from - a stream, river, lake, reservoir, groundwater, rainwater - and does it undergo treatment before you drink it?
14. How much water on average do you think your household uses each day?
15. If you live in a town or city with storm water drains, what happens to the water in the drains? Where does it end up?

Things to do at home or at school

Ask your teacher to arrange a visit to a local wetland to see how it is being used and what wildlife can be found there. Write about and draw the wildlife you see there.

Have a look at a map to find out how your local wetland connects to the ocean.

Think about how the wetland could be improved – things that would need to happen to improve water quality or enhance the habitat for water birds and native vegetation. Is this a project that your class or school could take on in partnership with the land owner?

Looking for answers?

What is a wetland? What different types of wetlands are there?

www.ramsar.org/about/info2007-01-e-pdf

www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/land-and-freshwater/wetlands

www.wetlandtrust.org.nz/whywetlands

Ramsar Convention and Ramsar sites

www.ramsar.org

www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/role/international/wetlands

What is a river basin/catchment area?

See the leaflet *9 things we all need to know about river basins*. This can be downloaded from:

www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/in-your-community/events/world-wetlands-day

Water use

www.sustainability.govt.nz

newzealand.govt.nz