

## Wetland Round Up Field Trip Activity Overview



- **Mud Creature Study (K-6):** The mudflats support a tremendous amount of life. In this activity, students will search for and study the creatures that live in bay mud.
- **Salinity Sleuths (3-6):** Students will measure and compare the salinities of tap water, slough water, and salt pond water. They will then put together two food pyramid puzzles, one for the salt pond and one for the slough to compare the two habitats.
- **Plankton Lab (3-6):** Students will collect a plankton sample from the slough and study the sample under microscopes. Then they will build a slough food pyramid to show the importance of plankton in the slough food chain.
- **Habitat Comparison Walk (K-2), (3-6):** Students will hike along the Tidelands Trail and compare five different refuge habitats, looking for plants and animals in each habitat, and working on a Habitat Hunt Sheet.
- **Marsh Walk (K-4):** Students will hike along La Riviere Marsh Trail or the Pumphouse Loop, using their senses to observe the marsh. Along the way, they will stop at “footsteps” that have observation cues.
- **Don't Let Pollution Leave Home (4-6):** Students will use a model of a sanitary sewage system and a storm drain system to discover where pollutants end up when they are poured down a sink or a storm drain. They will also study how these pollutants harm wildlife and what they can do to prevent this.
- **Where Does The Water Flow? (4-6):** Students will use a Bay watershed model to identify Bay habitats, learn about estuaries and how pollutants can enter the Bay. They will learn that salt ponds are not connected to the bay but also provide food for shorebirds and waterfowl.

- **Where Have All The Wetlands Gone? (3-6):** Students will pretend to be salt marsh animals feeding in a salt marsh habitat in this fun interactive game. Students discover the difficulties the animals face as a result of shrinking habitat.
- **Salt Marsh Mini Expedition (K-2), (3-6):** Students will work in pairs to examine a small section of the salt marsh. They will study plants, animals, and physical characteristics of the salt marsh.
- **Feet, Beaks, & Eats (2-6):** Students will match the beaks and feet of bay birds to photographs. They will use tools that represent a variety of bird's beaks to discover that birds have adaptations to feed on different food in different habitats.
- **Spotting Super Shorebirds (3-6):** Students will conduct a shorebird observation in a section of the refuge using spotting scope, binoculars, and data sheets. Back in the classroom, they can contribute data from their observations to a shorebird web page and/or a national database.
- **Salt Pond Migration (K-6):** Students will study the importance of salt pond habitat to migratory birds. They will simulate a sandpiper migration between nesting and wintering habitats. Afterwards, students will collect a sample of salt pond water and study the tiny animals the sandpipers eat.

