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watercorporation.com.au/education

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Caring for our rivers and lakes



Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions



What can you do?

Volunteering

To get involved in your local wetland, contact the State Government, Natural Resource Management group, Catchment Management Authority or non-government organisation for opportunities. To get started, visit dbca.wa.gov.au/parks-and-wildlife-service/volunteer-opportunities.

Raise your voice

Write letters to the editor and government officials, speak out about the impacts to our wetlands and the importance of healthy ecosystems.

At home

Small changes made at home or in the garden, if made by many people, will add up and make a big difference to the health of our rivers and waterways.

At school

You could organise a community walk, bike ride or run for wetlands, or how to protect our precious Swan and Canning rivers.

Minimise pollution

Recycle. Recycling is such a simple thing to do, but so many people don't!

Save water

Learn about your water footprint and reduce water use. Water is wasted more frequently than we can see. There are many little things that we can all do to help save water in our homes, all year round.

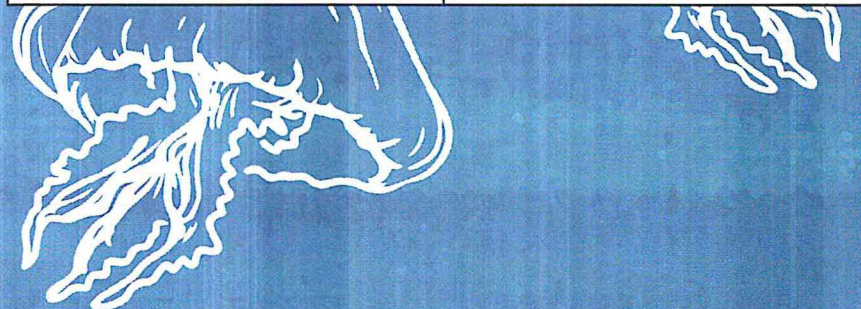
Research two of these programs and summarise how they aim to help our rivers and wetlands:



What's on the menu?

Use the information in this table to create food chains and food webs in the diagram on the next page. Draw a line between an organism and its food (with an arrow pointing to food).

Organism	Food
Aquatic invertebrates	Plants, smaller invertebrates
Frog	Invertebrates
Small fish	Algae, plants, invertebrates
Large fish	Small fish, invertebrates, frogs
Jellyfish	Algae
Swan	Plants
Darter	Fish, frogs
Duck	Plants, invertebrates, frogs
Crab	Dead plants and animals
Bird of prey	Ducks, fish, frogs, snakes
Tiger snake	Frogs, eggs, young ducks



WETLAND: FOOD WEB

Use the information on organisms and their food to create a wetland food web.



WETLAND: QUIZ



1. Wetlands are always wet. True/False
2. The water level of a wetland usually stays about the same throughout the year. True/False
3. Which life necessities do wetlands provide to animals?
a) food b) water c) shelter d) all of the above
4. During migration, birds like to “refuel” at wetlands while on their trek to their summer or winter homes. True/False
5. There are more live organisms in a healthy wetland than there are in almost any other kind of habitat. True/False
6. A change in one strand of the food chain does not affect the rest of the chain. True/False
7. How do people harm wetlands?
a) dump their rubbish b) drain them of their water c) allow fertilizer and chemicals into stormwater, d) all of the above.
8. Wetlands are found all over the world. There are wetlands on every continent, except:
a) Antarctica b) Africa c) Australia d) Asia
9. Wetlands occupy what percentage of the world?
a) 3% b) 13% c) 30% d) 33%
10. Over the past 100 years it’s estimated that the world has lost how much of its wetlands? a) 5% b) 25% c) 50% d) 75%

Quiz Answers

1. **False:** Wetlands are habitats which periodically have wet, waterlogged soils or are covered with a relatively shallow layer of water. They can even be dry for months or years. Wetlands are located in low-lying areas where rain and groundwater help keep them saturated. Wetlands are home to a great variety of animals including birds, mammals, fish, amphibians and insects.
2. **False:** Water levels in southwest wetlands increase during the winter because of the rain and decrease during the summer when it is dryer.
3. **d:** all of the above.
4. **True:** The type of birds varies from season to season due to their migratory patterns.
5. **True:** There is more life per square meter in a wetland than in almost any other kind of habitat. Wetlands support huge numbers of insects, fish, birds, mammals and plants.
6. **False:** When a link in the food chain is changed it affects the entire chain.
7. **d:** Wetlands are often drained or filled for agricultural use or for the construction of buildings. When people damage wetlands, either by polluting them or destroying them, they also remove the habitat that plants and animals depend on.
8. **a:** Antarctica
9. **a:** Even though they occupy just three percent of the earth’s surface, more than one-third of the globe’s endangered species rely on wetlands for survival.
10. **c:** 50%

