

Session title	Wetland Wonders	
Key Q	How can we use our senses to explore wetland wildlife?	
Session description	Explore wetland habitats and microhabitats using your senses. Identify, name, and group the plants and animals you find. How do they compare to one another and what do they all need to survive in a wetland?	
Key Stage Suitability	Early Years	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	3- and 4-year-olds will be learning to... - Use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials. - Talk about what they see, using a wide vocabulary. - Begin to understand the need to respect and care for the natural environment and all living things. Children in reception will be learning to... - Explore the natural world around them. - Describe what they see, hear and feel whilst outside. - Recognise some environments that are different from the one in which they live. - Understand the effect of changing seasons on the natural world around them.	
Learning outcomes	Most learners will...	More able learners will...
	- be able to explore the natural world using their senses. - observe and identify animals & plants closely using simple equipment, keys and guides.	- be able to describe the adaptations of wetland animals to the habitat. - be able to understand the need to care for wetland habitats.
Key vocabulary	Adaptations Similarities Differences	Wetland Senses Mammals
		Minibeasts Habitat or home Plants

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	3 mins
Learners are introduced to the wetlands and to the key question – How can we use our senses to explore wetland wildlife?	
Activity 1: Introduce wetlands as a habitat	3 mins
Learners identify and name different wetland habitats wildlife may live in.	
Activity 2: Mammal adaptations	8 mins
Learners observe and discuss any adaptations or skills Beavers and Otters may have for living in a wetland habitat. Any similarities and differences are identified between the two mammals.	
Activity 3: Listening and looking	25 mins
Learners use a variety of equipment and senses to investigate wetland plants, identify minibeasts and observe bird species.	

Activity 4: Visit a bird hide	10 mins
From our child-friendly Discovery Hide, learners will observe and identify birds on our nature reserve.	
Plenary	5 mins
Learners answer the key question and are encouraged to think about what else they might spot during their time at the centre.	