

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. How can we group and classify the animals we find? How have they evolved to survive in this habitat?	
Key Stage Suitability	KS2	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS2 Science Lower KS2: Living things and their habitats - Recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways. - Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. Upper KS2: Living things and their habitats - Describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences, including microorganisms, plants and animals. - Give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics. Upper KS2: Evolution and inheritance - Identify how animals and plants are adapted to suit their environment in different ways and that adaptation may lead to evolution.	
Learning outcomes	Most learners will...	More able learners will...
	- observe and identify animals & plants closely using simple equipment, keys and guides. - be able to recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways.	- classify wetland life during discussion as either plant or animal, and within animals as birds, mammals, amphibians and insects. - be able to describe the adaptations and specific characteristics of a wetland animal to its habitat.
Key vocabulary	Adaptations Characteristics Classification	Wetland Senses Groups of animals Habitat or home Environment Evolution

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	3 mins
Learners are introduced to the key question: How can we use our senses to explore wetland wildlife?	
Activity 1: Introduce wetlands as a habitat	3 mins
Learners name any wetlands they can see in our wall panel illustration and the session leader gives a definition of a wetland.	
Activity 2: Mammal adaptations	8 mins
In small groups, learners discuss any adaptations or characteristics Beavers and Otters may have for living in a wetland habitat. What similarities and differences can they highlight?	

Activity 3: Listening and looking	15 mins
In groups using a variety of equipment and senses, learners investigate wetland plants, minibeasts and birds.	
Activity 4: Visit a bird hide	10 mins
Learners visit one of our bird hides to watch and identify birds on our nature reserve. They identify species adaptations and characteristics.	
Activity 5: Classification game	10 mins
In groups, learners use the cards to classify some of the animals we have seen and others the class are yet to see.	
Plenary	5 mins
Learners discuss their findings, and the session leader highlights what else they might spot around the centre.	