

Let's Visit an Estuary!



Real-World Science Outdoors



Created by Nancy Skerritt for the Pacific Education Institute

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Notes:

Plant and Animal Observation Checklist: Visit to an Estuary

Plants

- Floating Plants
- Marsh Grasses

Animals

- Fish
- Birds
- Mammals
- Insects

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Animals in an Estuary.....	2
Plants in an Estuary.....	6
Estuaries are Important!.	8
Conclusion.....	13
Glossary.....	14
Observation Checklist.....	15



Let's Visit an Estuary!



Estuaries are special bodies of water. They are found where the fresh water from a river meets the salty water of the ocean.

Do you have an **estuary** near you?

Glossary

Adapt (v.) make a change to fit in. (p.6)

Estuary (n.) a place where fresh water from a river meets the salt water from the ocean. (p. 1)

Habitat (n.) a home. (p.9)

Mammals (n.) animals that feed their babies with milk like cats, dogs, deer and raccoons. (p.5)

Recreation (n.) activities to relax like hiking, fishing and canoeing. (p.12)

Release (v.) to let go. (p.7)

Scenery (n.) what we see in our surroundings. (p.11)

Conclusion

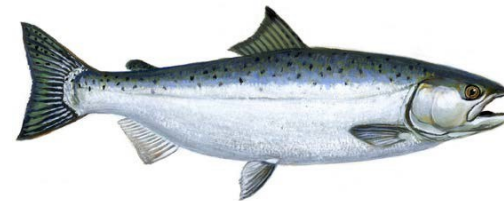
Estuaries are very special places where salt water mixes with fresh water. They are homes to many different plants and animals.



Enjoy your visit!

Animals in an Estuary

Estuaries are home to many amazing animals! Some of these animals live in the water like salmon, crabs, and snails.



Salmon



Crab



Snail

You might see birds like Sandpipers, Great Blue Herons, or even a Bald Eagle!



Bald Eagle



Great Blue Heron



Sandpiper

Estuaries provide a place for **recreation** like fishing, bird watching, and kayaking.



Estuaries provide beautiful scenery!



You might see Mosquitos or Dragonflies. Some of these animals are insects that provide food for the birds



Dragonfly



Mosquito

Some of these animals live on the land like raccoons, deer, and birds. You might see **mammals** like a deer or a squirrel.



Deer



Squirrel

Estuaries provide a home for fish, birds, mammals and other wild life.



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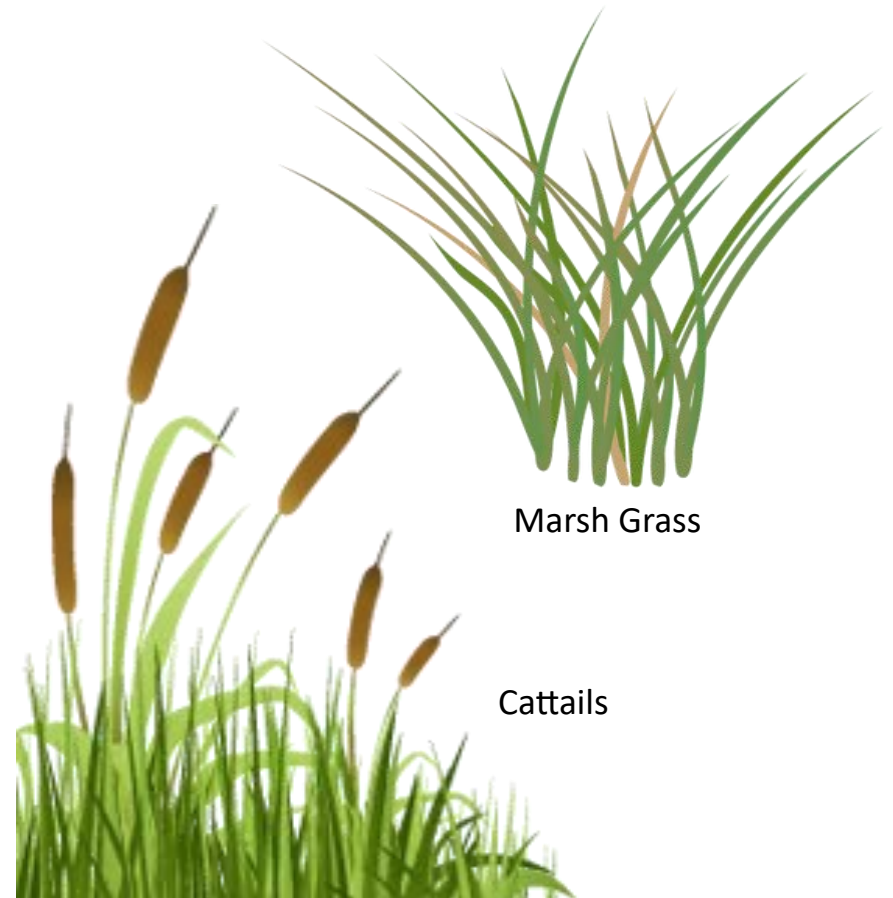


Estuaries make great **habitats** or homes for all these animals – especially babies.



Plants in an Estuary

Saltwater kills most plants. Plants in an estuary must **adapt** to the salt water.



Marsh Grass

Cattails

Some plants store the salt inside their leaves like Pickleweed.



Some plants **release** the salt to the outside of their leaves like Saltgrass. Too much salt will kill the plants.



Estuaries are Important!

Estuaries provide food for animals.

