Upstream - Downstream Wetlands connect us all



WWD 2009

20 questions for kids and teachers

You may know some of the answers already, others you may find with the help of your teacher or by using the internet (some helpful web links are given at the end for all those questions marked *).

- 1. What is a wetland?*
- 2. Name 3 different **types** of wetlands*.
- 3. Name your nearest wetland.
- 4. Name 3 different kinds of animals or plants that live there.
- 5. The Ramsar Convention is a treaty between governments to look after wetlands. Why is it called the *Ramsar* Convention?*
- 6. Is your country a member country of Ramsar?*
- 7. Name a Ramsar site in your country (if you have one!) and say why it is of international importance.*
- 8. What is the longest river in the world?
- 9. Which river carries the largest volume of water in the world?
- 10. Name the longest river in your country.
- 11. Name 3 ways in which this river is used by people.
- 12. Name 3 ways in which rivers near you become polluted.
- 13. Name the biggest lake in your country.
- 14. Name 3 ways in which this lake is used by people.
- 15. Name the biggest lake in the world.
- 16. What is a river basin?*
- 17. Which river basin do you live in?
- 18. Where does the water you drink come from? Which river? Lake? Reservoir? Aquifer?

- 19. If you live in a town or city with storm drains, what happens to the water in the storm drains? Where does it go?
- 20. In wetland management we talk about 'stakeholders' all the individuals, groups and organizations who have a 'stake' in what happens in a particular wetland. People who **use** the wetland (perhaps its water or the animals and plants that live there), people who like to **see wildlife**, people who have the **responsibility** to look after it, all of them have a 'stake' in the wetland. So fishers, farmers, tourists, families, factory owners etc., are all stakeholders and wetland management works best when all stakeholders are involved.

Look at the picture below taken from our leaflet *9 Things you need to know about river basins.* It shows wetland stakeholders meeting together to decide on how to manage the wetland. Suggest the kind of stakeholder each character around the table represents. (Start from the cow and work clockwise to make your list.)



Things to do at home or at school

Ask your teacher to arrange a visit to a local wetland to see how it is being used and what wildlife can be found there. Write about and draw the wildlife you see there.

Find out how many people live in your river basin.

Find out how much water on average each person in your village, town, or country uses each day at home.

Check out a map of your river basin to find out how your local wetland is connected hydrologically within the basin.

Looking for answers?

What is a wetland? What different types of wetlands are there? www.ramsar.org/about/info2007-01-e.pdf

More about Ramsar in general?

www.ramsar.org

Which countries are members (Contracting Parties) of the Ramsar Convention? www.ramsar.org/key_cp_e.htm

What is a river basin?

www.ee.enr.state.nc.us/public/ecoaddress/riverbasinsmain.htm and our leaflet 9 Things you need to know about river basins: www.ramsar.org/wwd/9/wwd2009_leaflet_e.pdf

Where are the world's Ramsar Sites located?

Look here www.ramsar.org/sitelist.pdf, and also try Google Earth to zoom across the world and find the Ramsar Sites in your country: http://ramsar.wetlands.org/GISMaps/RamsarSitesinGoogleEarth/tabid/944/Default.aspx

Why are Ramsar Sites of international importance?

Find out from the Ramsar Sites Database here: http://ramsar.wetlands.org/Database/Searchforsites/tabid/765/Default.aspx. Just put in the name of your country and click search, then check out the RIS (Ramsar Information Sheet) for each site.