



# Looking After Our Water and Wetlands



**PRIMARY**

## Wetlands Cloze.

Read the text about wetlands carefully and insert the correct word from the list to complete each sentence.

### Word List

irrigation water threatened system wetlands rubbish  
process shelter supply environments salinity protect

Wetlands are a fragile combination of land and water \_\_\_\_\_ .  
There are many types of wetland, each home to a rich variety of wildlife.

Wetlands are essential to the well being of the Murray-Darling River \_\_\_\_\_ .  
They filter water by absorbing nutrients and minerals from it, which they release as they dry out. This \_\_\_\_\_ provides valuable food for the plants and microorganisms that \_\_\_\_\_ support. It also removes many pollutants from the South Australian water \_\_\_\_\_ , keeping our water safe.



Wetlands feed and help \_\_\_\_\_ wildlife, providing a safe breeding ground. Wetlands are the nurseries for young fish and waterbirds.

Wetlands are \_\_\_\_\_ by river regulation - dams, locks and weirs have interrupted the flow of \_\_\_\_\_ onto flood plains, changing the cycle of droughts and floods that wetlands experience. Increased \_\_\_\_\_ (salt content) is a result of slower flows, \_\_\_\_\_ , scrub clearing and higher underground water levels, and acts like a poison to the wetlands environment.

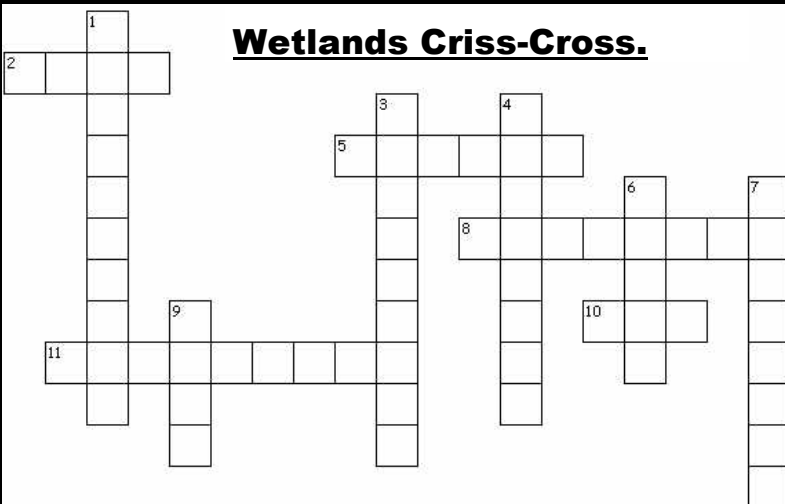


Recreation activities such as camping and water skiing have also affected the wetlands environment.

What can we do? Managing river flows - ensuring wetlands get the flooding and drying they need - is important to \_\_\_\_\_ wetlands from further degradation. Other ways we can help include keeping to marked roads and tracks when near wetlands, taking home \_\_\_\_\_ when visiting the river and leaving wetlands wildlife alone.

Source: *What's What About Wetlands Along the River Murray (Fact Sheet 5)*

## Wetlands Criss-Cross.



### Across:

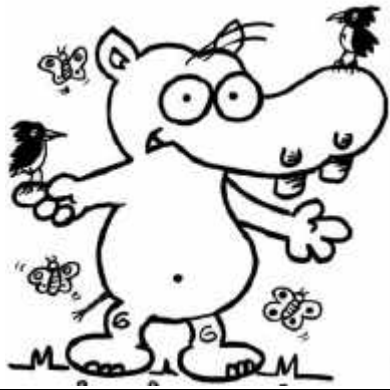
2. An introduced species of fish
5. Our mighty river
8. Wetlands help to support this
10. A native Murray fish species
11. A problem affecting the Murray

### Down:

1. A method of using river water for crops and pastoral uses
3. Wetlands absorb these
4. Too much salt in the water
6. Occurs when water levels rise too quickly
7. Essential for the well being of the river
9. The movement of the river's water

**You Can Do It!**

Make a list of the Top Ten things you can do as an individual to help the environment.



T	I	V
S	D	E
Y	R	I

Make as many words as you can from these letters. Can you find the mystery 9-letter word? It means the linked relationships between all living things and the environment.

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**Maths Square.**

- Try to fill in the missing numbers.
- Each number is used only once.
- Each row and column is a maths equation.
- Work from left to right, top to bottom.

9	-		÷		1
-		X		X	
	÷	3	+	7	9
X		X		÷	
5	+		X		28
15		6		14	

**Action Verbs.**

Action verbs express an action we can see e.g. walk, sit, build

Circle the action verbs in each sentence.

1. We collected many milk cartons for recycling.
2. Fred liked studying frogs in their natural environment.
3. For his research paper, the biologist did a lot of reading.
4. A phosphate-free detergent is best for washing dishes and clothes.
5. The water levels rose dramatically after the rain fell.
6. Pick up any rubbish and dispose of it in a bin.

**Design.**

Design a colourful, informative tourist brochure for the River Murray and surrounding regions.

Your brochure needs to focus on the appealing aspects of the river and the region. You could include information about:

- ⊗ Murray towns
- ⊗ The Riverland
- ⊗ Tourist attractions
- ⊗ Local environment
- ⊗ Recreation activities



**Eugene's Challenge.**

The flow of the Murray River is regulated by dams, reservoirs, locks and weirs.

Find out about why these installations are there, how they work and their positive and negative effects.

**Web Links.**

[www.murray-river.net/homepage.htm](http://www.murray-river.net/homepage.htm)  
 KESAB Watercare Club:  
[www.cwmb.sa.gov.au/kwc](http://www.cwmb.sa.gov.au/kwc)

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_