

WORLD WETLANDS DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/02/world_wetlands_day.html

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ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

World Wetlands Day (WWD) occurs on the 2nd of February each year. It marks the date of the signing of the International Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. WWD started in 1997. It aims to raise awareness of the value of wetlands around the world and the unique and important place they have. The 158 nations and territories who signed the convention promised to conserve and protect over 1,782 wetlands, covering an area of over 160 million hectares. The United Kingdom tops the list with 177 protected wetland sites. Each year governments and citizens' groups carry out all kinds of activities on WWD. These range from nature walks, clean-up days and seminars to new government laws to protect the wetlands.

The world's wetlands serve an important role in nature. They are all mini eco-systems and contain a huge diversity of animal and plant life. They take the form of ponds, streams, rivers, bogs and swamps. They also serve an important role in the flood defences of an area. Wetlands are like giant sponges and store water from floods. They can protect an area from flooding from storms and high tides. This is coming under threat now with rising sea levels and global warming. Climate change means any wetlands are themselves being flooded or are drying up and disappearing. Wetlands are also a wonderful way to explore nature and see a huge variety of water life, plants, animals and birds. It is vital we protect them.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. It marks the | a. of the value of wetlands |
| 2. It aims to raise awareness | b. out all kinds of activities |
| 3. the unique and | c. over 1,782 wetlands |
| 4. conserve and protect | d. date of the signing |
| 5. The U.K. tops the list with 177 | e. important place they have |
| 6. citizens' groups carry | f. protected wetland sites |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. wetlands serve an important | a. we protect them |
| 2. contain a huge diversity | b. store water from floods |
| 3. Wetlands are like giant sponges and | c. rising sea levels |
| 4. They can protect an | d. role in nature |
| 5. coming under threat now with | e. of animal and plant life |
| 6. It is vital | f. area from flooding |

LISTENING GAP FILL

World Wetlands Day (WWD) _____ of February each year. It marks the date of the signing of the International Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. WWD started in 1997. _____ awareness of the value of wetlands around the world and the unique and important _____. The 158 nations and territories who signed the convention promised to conserve and protect over 1,782 wetlands, covering _____ 160 million hectares. The United Kingdom tops the list with 177 protected wetland sites. Each year governments and citizens' groups _____ of activities on WWD. These range from nature walks, clean-up days and seminars to new government _____ wetlands.

The world's wetlands serve an important _____. They are all mini eco-systems and contain a _____ animal and plant life. They take the form of ponds, streams, rivers, bogs and swamps. They also serve an important _____ defences of an area. Wetlands are like giant sponges and store water from floods. They can protect an area from flooding from _____ tides. This is coming under threat now with rising sea levels and global warming. Climate _____ wetlands are themselves being flooded or are drying up and disappearing. Wetlands are also a wonderful _____ and see a huge variety of water life, plants, animals and birds. It is vital we protect them.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

World Wetlands Day (WWD) _____ on the 2nd of February each year. It marks the date of the _____ of the International Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. WWD started in 1997. It aims to raise awareness of the _____ of wetlands around the world and the _____ and important place they have. The 158 nations and territories who signed the convention _____ to conserve and protect over 1,782 wetlands, covering an area of over 160 million hectares. The United Kingdom _____ the list with 177 protected wetland sites. Each year governments and citizens' groups _____ out all kinds of activities on WWD. These range from nature walks, clean-up days and _____ to new government laws to protect the wetlands.

promised

value

seminars

unique

occurs

carry

signing

tops

The world's wetlands _____ an important role in nature. They are all mini eco-systems and contain a _____ diversity of animal and plant life. They take the form of ponds, streams, rivers, bogs and swamps. They also serve an important _____ in the flood defences of an area. Wetlands are like giant _____ and store water from floods. They can protect an area from flooding from storms and _____ tides. This is coming under threat now with rising sea _____ and global warming. Climate change means any wetlands are themselves being _____ or are drying up and disappearing. Wetlands are also a wonderful way to explore nature and see a huge variety of water life, plants, animals and birds. It is _____ we protect them.

flooded

role

huge

vital

sponges

levels

serve

high

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

World Wetlands Day (WWD) *occurs / occurrence* on the 2nd of February each year. It marks the date of the *signature / signing* of the International Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. WWD started in 1997. It aims to *raise / rise* awareness of the value of wetlands around the world and the *uniquely / unique* and important place they have. The 158 nations and territories who signed the convention *promised / promises* to conserve and protect over 1,782 wetlands, covering an area of over 160 million hectares. The United Kingdom *tops / topping* the list with 177 protected wetland sites. Each year governments and citizens' groups *carry out / in* all kinds of activities on WWD. These *range / ranger* from nature walks, clean-up days and seminars to new government laws to protect the wetlands.

The world's wetlands *servicing / serve* an important role in nature. They are all mini *echo-systems / eco-systems* and contain a huge *diversity / diverse* of animal and plant life. They take the form of ponds, streams, rivers, bogs and swamps. They also serve an important role in the *flood / floods* defences of an area. Wetlands are like giant sponges and store water from floods. They can protect an area *from / for* flooding from storms and high tides. This is coming under threat now with *rising / raising* sea levels and global warming. Climate change means any wetlands are themselves being flooded or are drying *down / up* and disappearing. Wetlands are also a wonderful way to explore nature and see a huge variety of water life, plants, animals and birds. It is *vital / vitality* we protect them.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

World Wetlands Day (WWD) (1) _____ on the 2nd of February each year. It marks the date of the (2) _____ of the international Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. WWD started in 1997. It aims to raise awareness of the value of wetlands around the world and the (3) _____ and important place they have. The 158 nations and territories who signed the convention promised to conserve and protect over 1,782 wetlands, covering an (4) _____ of over 160 million hectares. The United Kingdom (5) _____ the list with 177 protected wetland sites. Each year governments and citizens' groups (6) _____ out all kinds of activities on WWD. These range from nature walks, clean-up days and seminars to new government laws to protect the wetlands.

The world's wetlands serve an important role in (7) _____. They are all mini eco-systems and contain a huge diversity of animal and plant life. They take the (8) _____ of ponds, streams, rivers, bogs and swamps. They also serve an important role in the flood defences of an area. Wetlands are like giant sponges and (9) _____ water from floods. They can protect an area from flooding from storms and high tides. This is coming (10) _____ threat now with rising sea levels and global warming. Climate change means any wetlands are themselves being flooded or are drying (11) _____ and disappearing. Wetlands are also a wonderful way to explore nature and see a huge variety of water life, plants, animals and birds. It is (12) _____ we protect them.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) occurs | (b) occurrence | (c) occur | (d) occult |
| 2. | (a) singing | (b) singe | (c) sine | (d) signing |
| 3. | (a) uniquely | (b) unique | (c) unicorn | (d) uniqueness |
| 4. | (a) range | (b) area | (c) choice | (d) limits |
| 5. | (a) topping | (b) top | (c) tops | (d) topiary |
| 6. | (a) hold | (b) lift | (c) piggyback | (d) carry |
| 7. | (a) natural | (b) naturist | (c) naturalist | (d) nature |
| 8. | (a) formation | (b) forms | (c) form | (d) former |
| 9. | (a) storage | (b) store | (c) storing | (d) stores |
| 10. | (a) under | (b) over | (c) around | (d) in |
| 11. | (a) up | (b) in | (c) on | (d) down |
| 12. | (a) vitality | (b) vitally | (c) vital | (d) vital signs |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. ucrocs on the 2nd of February
2. the ulvea of wetlands
3. gnuiue and important place
4. an eaar of over 160 million hectares
5. nature awlks
6. rcotept the wetlands

Paragraph 2

7. rsvee an important role
8. huge vtirsdeyi
9. giant segsopn
10. coming under rthtea
11. gidnyr up and disappearing
12. It is aivtl

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () sea levels and global warming. Climate change means any wetlands are themselves being
- () walks, clean-up days and seminars to new government laws to protect the wetlands.
- () an important role in the flood defences of an area. Wetlands are like giant sponges and store water from
- () nations and territories who signed the convention promised to conserve and protect over 1,782 wetlands, covering an
- () floods. They can protect an area from flooding from storms and high tides. This is coming under threat now with rising
- () the International Convention on Wetlands in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran. WWD started in 1997. It aims to raise
- () flooded or are drying up and disappearing. Wetlands are also a wonderful way to explore
- () area of over 160 million hectares. The United Kingdom tops the list with 177 protected wetland sites. Each
- () nature and see a huge variety of water life, plants, animals and birds. It is vital we protect them.
- (**1**) World Wetlands Day (WWD) occurs on the 2nd of February each year. It marks the date of the signing of
- () diversity of animal and plant life. They take the form of ponds, streams, rivers, bogs and swamps. They also serve
- () The world's wetlands serve an important role in nature. They are all mini eco-systems and contain a huge
- () awareness of the value of wetlands around the world and the unique and important place they have. The 158
- () year governments and citizens' groups carry out all kinds of activities on WWD. These range from nature

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. awareness the of raise of value wetlands

2. unique important they the and place have

3. with wetland UK list protected The the 177 sites tops

4. citizens' activities of kinds all out carry groups

5. new laws protect wetlands government to the

6. important in wetlands an role nature serve

7. animal a and huge plant diversity life of contain

8. giant store floods like and from are sponges water Wetlands

9. under with levels coming now sea is threat rising This

10. way are to also explore a nature wonderful Wetlands

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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THE WORLD WETLANDS DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about World Wetlands Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about World Wetlands Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about World Wetlands Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about World Wetlands Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.