

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is made up of lots of habitats, including wetlands. At this activity we are going to learn about wetlands

Does anyone know anything about wetlands?  
(accept responses)

**Water + land = WETLAND!**

It takes special soils and special plants *along with the* water and land to make a wetland.

1

**There are even very small plants and animals living in the water that we can only see with a microscope.**

(Point out on poster)

These very small plants and animals start many food webs.  
Who might eat those tiny plants and animals?

**What about the special plants in the wetland?**

**Some have their roots right in the water!  
Can most plants grow in water like this?  
No! their roots would rot!**

3

Let's look at the poster to find out why freshwater wetlands like the Laguna de Santa Rosa are important.

What do you notice about this wetland?

**Yes! There are lots of animals.  
Can you name some of them?**

**What do animals need to live?**

Just like us they need food, water and shelter.  
Because there are so many animals, we can tell that wetlands provide lots of food and shelter and water.

2

**Some wetland plants like Tule & Cattails have a special design with lots of air spaces in the stem and roots that move oxygen around to keeps the roots from rotting.**

*Tule & cattails are adapted to living in the wetland.  
Their roots help hold the soil in place to prevent erosion  
and slow the flow of water.*

**Does anyone know a word that means "special design that helps it live"? ADAPTATION**

*Another reason wetland plant roots are important is because they ehlp hold the soin in place to prevent erosion.  
(erosion: the wearing away of the land)*

4