

# What is a wetland?



# What do you already know about wetlands?

- Where are they?
- Is there one at your place?
- Are they important, and why?
- Does anything live there, and if so, what?
- What plants grow there? Can you name any?





click here to play: <https://youtu.be/X33FX8pG-Dc>



# What is a wetland?

An area that is sometimes or is permanently (always) wet

Has shallow areas that plants can grow and animals can live

Can have ground water, rainwater or surface water





[Click here to play: https://youtu.be/eVLuM18mB\\_U](https://youtu.be/eVLuM18mB_U)



# **Activity time**

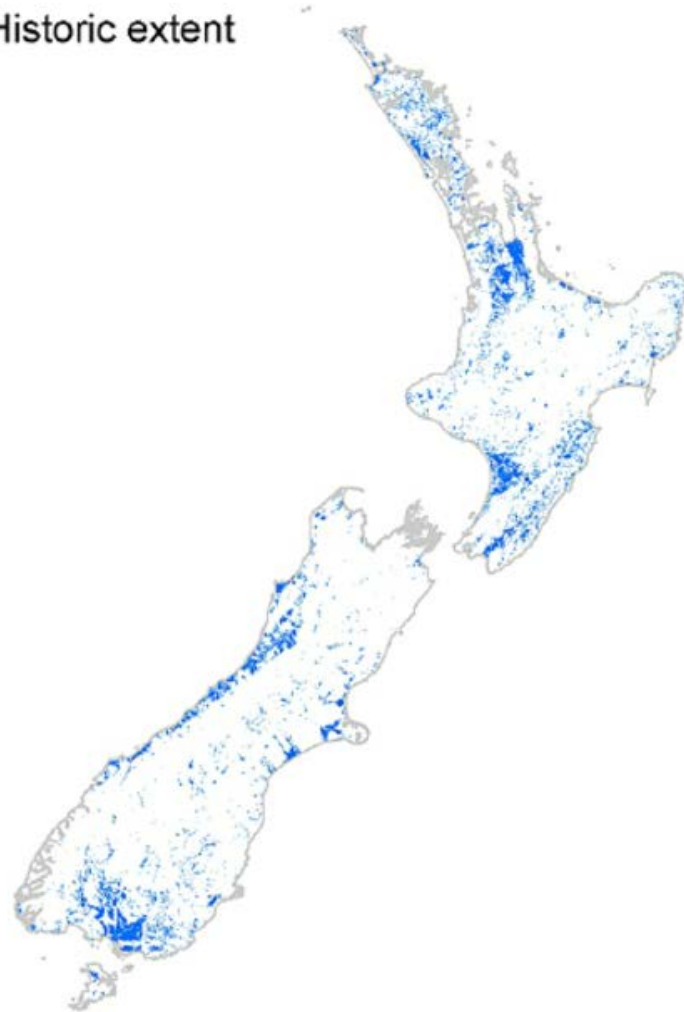
Activity 1: How Wetlands Are Made



# Did you know ...

- New Zealand has less than 10% of the wetlands that were present in pre-European times

Historic extent



Current extent  
2003



Image sourced from:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/figure/221919880\\_fig4\\_Fig-4-Map-comparison-of-current-and-historic-extent-of-freshwater-wetlands-blue-areas](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/221919880_fig4_Fig-4-Map-comparison-of-current-and-historic-extent-of-freshwater-wetlands-blue-areas)

The wetlands are disappearing – lets watch to see what the world is doing



[Click here to play: https://youtu.be/upbG9Gm\\_Y00](https://youtu.be/upbG9Gm_Y00)





# Research time

- What date did New Zealand join RAMSAR?
- How many designated wetland sites does New Zealand have?
- When is World Wetlands Day?

