

## FIELD TRIP FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY

### *Habitat Restoration*

To do after the field trip, in class or at home

1. **Students will read a paragraph to expand on topics introduced during their recent field trip.** The reading is available on the next page and online at <http://oceanconnectors.org/resources>.

The reading contains new vocabulary, indicated by *italics*, so it is best if teachers read the material in advance and prepare to work through it with the children.

2. After reading, **students copy and complete a table inside their journals** (next page).
3. After filling in the table, **students respond to four reflection questions inside their journals** using complete sentences.
4. **The answer key is contained in the printed User Guide only** (not online). Please review the answers together in class.
5. This lesson covers 6<sup>th</sup> grade Common Core State Standards in ELA/Literacy, and Next Generation Science Standards MS-LS2-1 and MS-LS2-4.
6. **Extension:** Examine the bird migration data available at [www.allaboutbirds.org/mesmerizing-migration-watch-118-bird-species-migrate-across-a-map-of-the-western-hemisphere](http://www.allaboutbirds.org/mesmerizing-migration-watch-118-bird-species-migrate-across-a-map-of-the-western-hemisphere). Have students predict the migration patterns of species along the U.S. west coast. Explain if protecting one habitat area is enough to help protect an entire species. Why or why not?

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## Habitat Restoration

As the city expanded, 90% of coastal wetlands around the San Diego Bay were filled or drained. In order to conserve and restore the remaining wetlands, local citizens and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service established a series of National Wildlife Refuges, including the Tijuana Slough, Sweetwater Marsh, and the South San Diego Bay. These Refuges conserve the last remaining coastal wetlands in Southern California. The mission of the Refuges is to manage a national network of lands and waters for the conservation and restoration of fish, wildlife, plant resources, and their habitat. The South San Diego Bay Refuge protects thousands of migratory birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway, as well as *resident* species. With rare eelgrass beds – a food source for green sea turtles and an important habitat for fish – and the largest *contiguous* mudflat in Southern California, the Refuge is a habitat for thousands of waterfowl, sea birds, and shorebirds, as well as other species. California least terns, brown pelicans, western snowy plovers, and light-footed clapper rails are some of the rare bird species that can be found here. It is important to conserve and protect coastal wetlands so that everyone can enjoy their beautiful landscapes and rich *biodiversity*. Think about your visit to a coastal wetland and copy and complete the table below inside your journal. **Prey items include:** rodents, seeds, insects, nectar, plants, fish, and invertebrates.

Bird	Did you see it?	Describe its feet	Describe its beak	What does it eat?
<b>Anna's hummingbird</b> 				
<b>Snowy egret</b> 				
<b>Killdeer</b> 				
<b>Black brant</b> 				
<b>Red-tailed hawk</b> 				
<b>Ring-billed gull</b> 				
<b>Savannah sparrow</b> 				