

Pond Ecology and Wetlands R.A.F.T.S.

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Ecologist	Fourth Graders	Make a list	The top ten things you should know about ponds and wetlands.
Swamp	Freshwater Marsh	Make a table	Why the world needs both of us.
Decomposer	Producer	Draw a diagram	I am more important than you are in the food chain.
Salt Marsh	Cordgrass, Muskrats, Fiddler Crabs, Clapper Rails	Invitation	Come live with me.
Precipitation	Wasteful humans	Create a script for a play	How your actions are changing me.
Bog	Archaeologists	Write a poem	The secrets I hold.
Reporter	City Developers	Write a news article	Save the wetlands!
Concerned Citizen	Department of Public Health	Propose a law	Based on the biotic index you used to test the water in several ponds, current laws need to change to protect the purity of the water supply.
Author	Third Graders	Write a fable	What the moral of the story is when we don't pay attention to the clues ponds and wetlands provide us.

RAFT EXAMPLE 2

This RAFT is designed for students in a second grade class as they are learning about endangered and extinct animals in science and about natural resources in social studies. Students study both topics for a number of days before they do the RAFT. This activity serves as a culmination to this period of study.

RAFT Goals

Students should know

- The basic needs of plants and animals.
- The role of natural resources in the lives of people and animals.

Students should understand

- Our actions affect the balance of life on Earth.
- Animals become endangered or extinct when the natural resources they need are damaged or limited.
- Natural resources are not unlimited and must be used wisely.

Student should be able to

- Identify causes of problems because of misuse of natural resources.
- Propose a useful solution to the problems.

RAFT Activity

Directions: Pick one of these three activities to show what you know about why taking care of natural resources is important to the balance of life in our world. Use what you have learned about our endangered and extinct animals and natural resources to make your work helpful to everyone who sees it. Be ready to explain how you know your work is of high quality.

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
The Earth	Aliens who might want to live on earth	A written set of rules with reasons	What you need to know and do if you want to live here
An endangered animal	Humans	A poster with an exhibit card to explain it	Why I need you and how you can help save me
A natural resource	Our class	A speech	What people need to know about using this well and why that matters anyhow