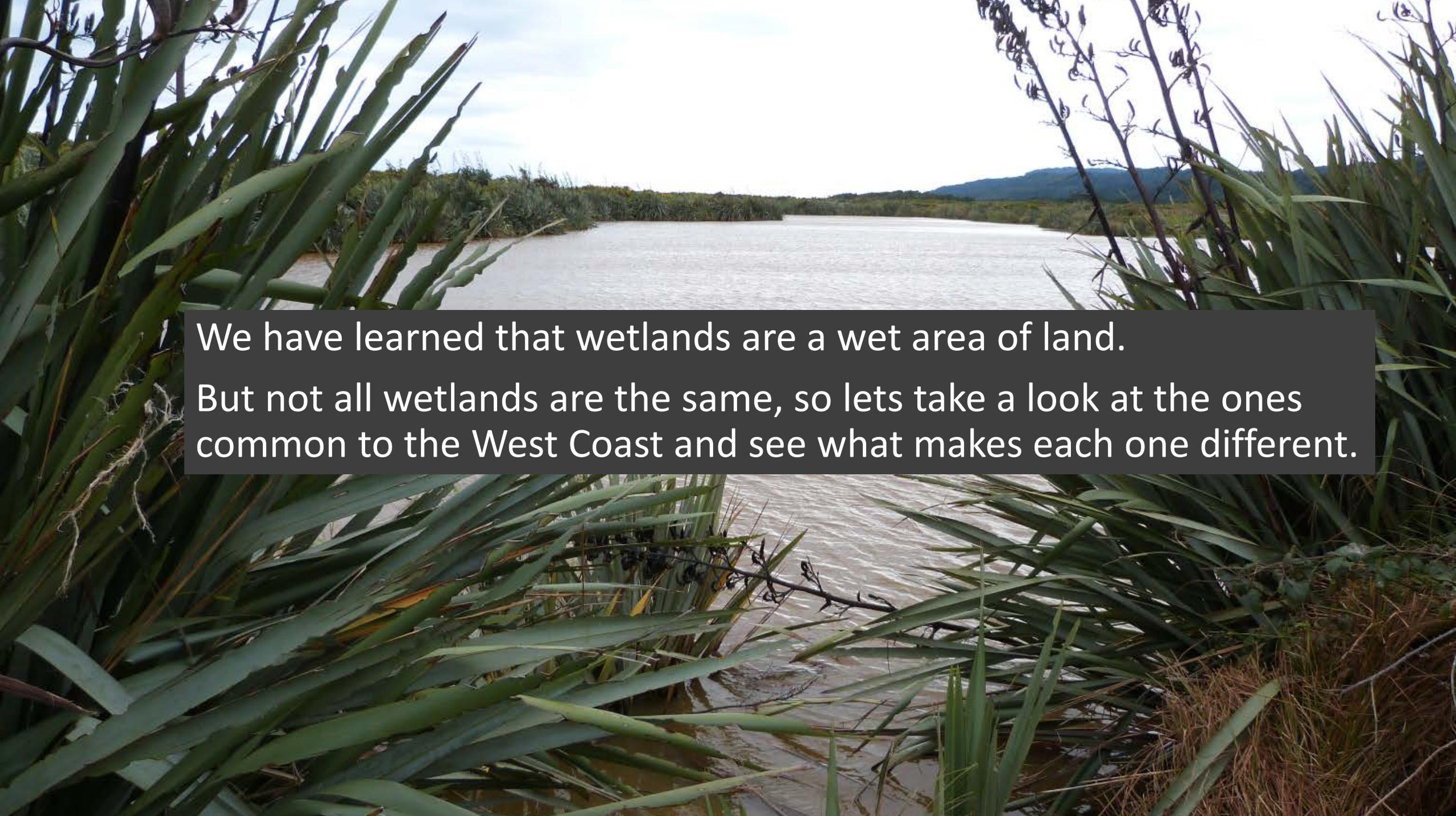


# Types of wetlands





We have learned that wetlands are a wet area of land.

But not all wetlands are the same, so let's take a look at the ones common to the West Coast and see what makes each one different.

# Bog

- is a basin in the land where water collects when it rains.
- These areas build up and deposit dead plant material – we call this peat
- Is a good place for mosses to grow – like sphagnum moss
- often dries up when there has been no rain.
- Manuka can grow around the edges as it likes having wet roots
- The water here has very few nutrients and will be acidic.

# Swamp

- a wetland that has freshwater flowing through it.
- a fertile area with lots of plants
- These plants provide great hiding places for wildlife.
- many aquatic invertebrates live here like insects, water-snails, crustaceans and worms
- you will even find fish and eels in a swamp.
- The swamp water level may vary during the different seasons.
- You will see plants like Harakeke (flax) and Carex plants.

# Lagoon

- A lagoon will have a sandbar closing it off from the sea.
- In large storms, waves may wash over this bar.
- A lagoon is mainly fresh water but may sometimes have saltwater as it washes in.
- The lagoon will be fed by a flow of freshwater.
- It can be an important breeding ground to fish.
- It provides a feeding ground for many different species of birds

# Estuary

- An estuary is a mix of fresh water and salt water.
- There will be mudflats that will be covered in water at high tide.
- Sand dunes will provide resting places for the many birds that feed in this wetland.
- The estuary areas on the West Coast provide important spawning sites for whitebait.

Taramakau River

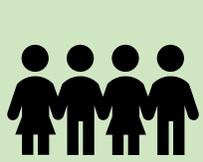
# Lakes and Ponds

- Permanent areas of open freshwater.
- At the edge of the lake or pond, the water will be shallow
- Plant life provides ideal habitat for ducks and other water fowl.
- The lake will be home to fish and the many insects that they feed on.
- Ponds are man made wetlands with the majority of the area having open water.

# Ephemeral Wetlands

- We call a seasonal wetland an ephemeral (E-fem-er-all) wetland.
- the shallow depressions in the land are collectors for high rainfall or surface run off during winter and early spring
- these areas can rapidly dry out during summer time.
- these wetlands are preserved
- productive places for waterfowl to feed.
- The water that flows into these areas is high in nutrients.





# Activity time

## Activity 3: Types of Wetlands

