



Activity 2 - An introduction to the “Tide of the Heron”

<u>PURPOSE:</u>	To become familiar with the flora, fauna, and processes of the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve as an example of estuaries of the bio-region.
<u>TIME REQUIRED:</u>	One class period (~45 minutes)
<u>SUBJECTS:</u>	Science, English, Math
<u>MATERIALS NEEDED:</u>	DVD (available summer 2007) or VHS copy of “Tide of the Heron”, appropriate player and monitor for # of students watching, Estuaries Feature Series articles and questions.
<u>VOCABULARY:</u>	Estuary, salinity, estes, tide, tide flats, salt marsh, slough, detritus, plankton

Outcomes: 1) Students will be able to define the terms identified in the vocabulary for this activity. 2) Students will be able to successfully answer at least 80% of the study questions included in the Tide of the Heron study guide. 3) Students will have selected, read, and reported on at least one article from the Estuaries Feature Series.

Life Science:

- Organism structure & functions

Unifying Concepts and Processes:

- System inputs & outputs
- Evidence of changes over time
- Interaction of forces & changes
- Relationship of structure & function

Physical Science:

- Force & matter interactions

Earth and Space Science:

- Water cycle

Background: The “Tide of the Heron” video was produced in 1991 as an introduction to estuaries and the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. This high quality, award winning 12 minute video provides an easy to watch, fast paced overview of the processes, life zones, and ecology of the South Slough estuary.

During this activity, students will watch the film and answer study questions as a group or as individuals. The teacher may prefer to have the students work in teams and then present their answers and information to the class.



Preparation: Review “Tide of the Heron” prior to showing it to the students, so that you are familiar with the important elements of the program. Copy the student worksheet “Tide of the Heron video questions” included in this activity for each student. An answer key is provided for the teacher’s use.

Activity Description: Prepare students for the viewing by suggesting that the experience and images captured by the “Tide of the Heron” program are the result of many hours of work in the field and that they will need to be very observant in seeking the information needed to complete their worksheets. Explain that you will show the program once and only after they have completed the worksheets will you show the program again and review specific parts at their request.

Post activity analysis: Once the students have viewed the program, ask them to fill out the worksheet to the best of their ability and then discuss the questions as a class to prompt further inquiry.

Follow up ideas: The class may want to pursue other topics related to estuaries further and the “Estuaries Feature Series” is provided with study questions for use with the students. This series of 54 brief articles and illustrations highlight a variety of topics related to estuaries and can be assigned individually for review and discussion.

Select another program about estuaries or a topic such as fisheries that is related to estuaries. Ask the students to develop questions for a study guide for this program. Other videos available for loan from South Slough NERR are: