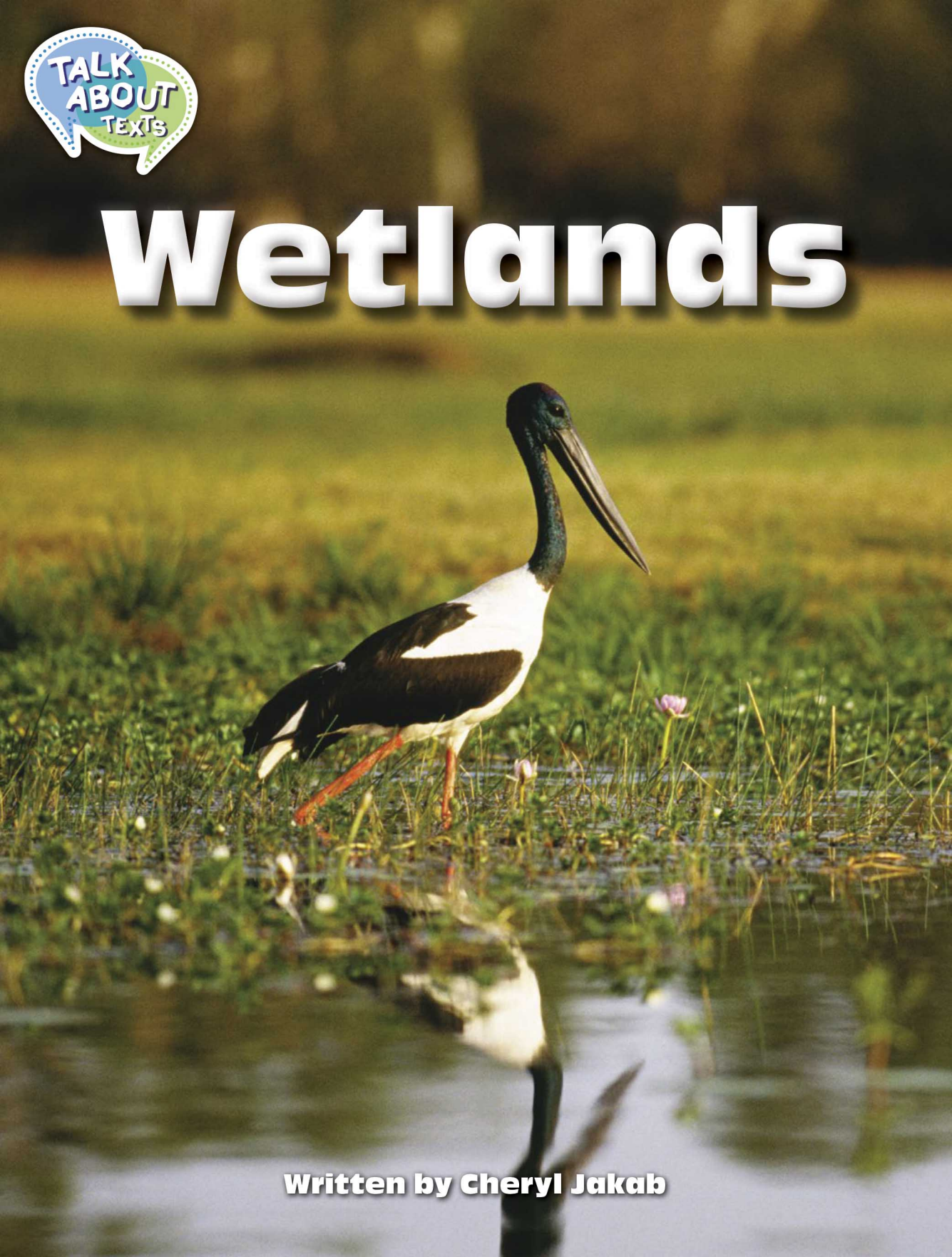

TALK ABOUT TEXTS
Wetlands
Written by Cheryl Jakab

Wetlands



For Review Only

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macmillan education

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Introducing Wetlands

Wetlands are areas of land that are covered in still or slow-flowing water. Slow-flowing rivers and streams often form wetlands. Areas that flood after rain or are sometimes covered by seawater can form wetlands, too.

Wetlands are both interesting and beautiful. Wetland areas are home to different animals and plants.



Like all wetlands, this wetland in the South Island of New Zealand is on flat land.

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Water and Life

All living things cannot survive without water. Wherever there is water on Earth, there is life. Wetlands have a lot of water. So wetlands are full of life.

Wetland Habitats

A wetland **habitat** has great **biodiversity**. This means that it is home to many different living things. There are many birds, insects, fish and other animals. They live on, in or near the water.

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Pelicans flock to wetlands because they are waterbirds that must live on or around water.



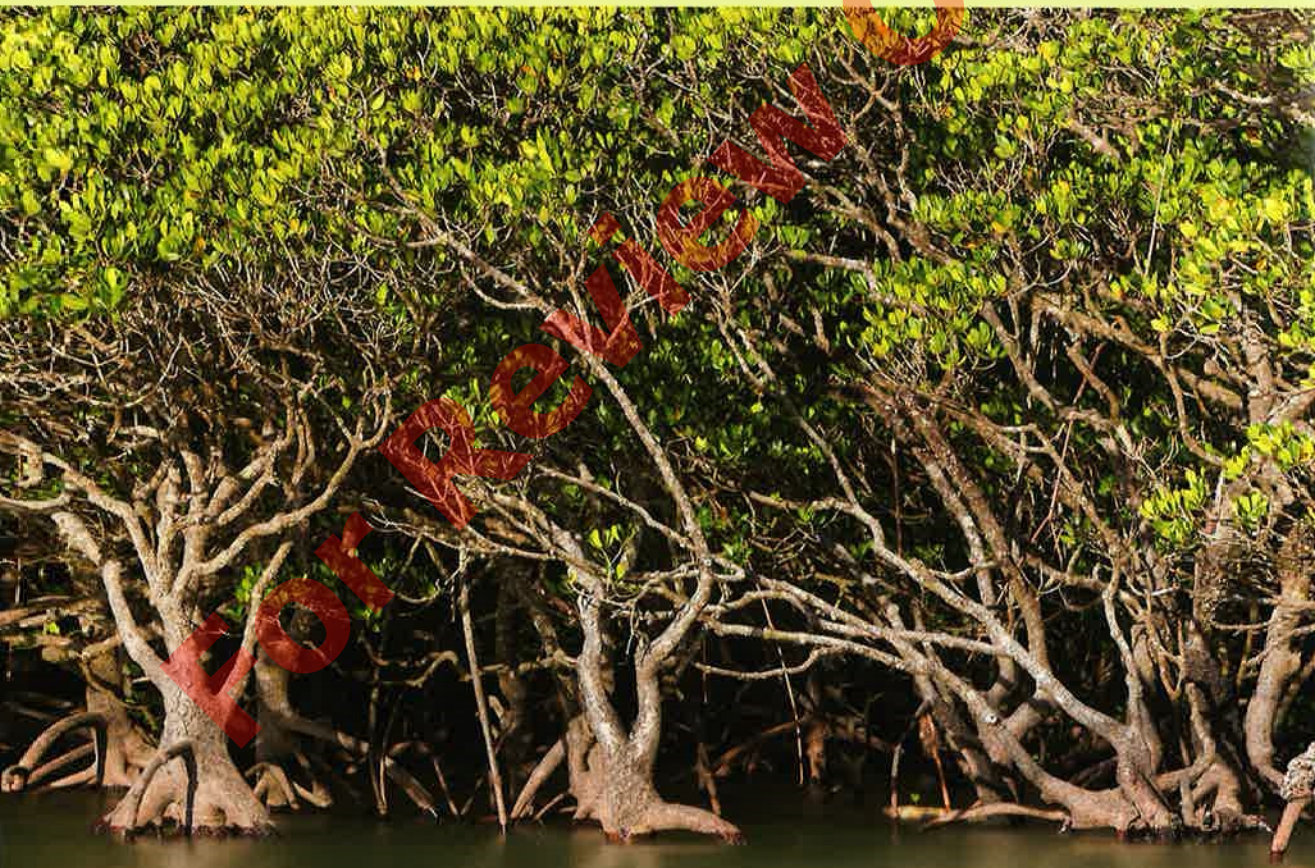
Two caimans feed on fish in a freshwater wetland in Brazil.

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Types of Wetlands

Wetlands are formed from either salt water or fresh water. Saltwater wetlands are found along coasts. Mangrove swamps are one type of saltwater wetland. Freshwater wetlands form in shallow areas around inland lakes, rivers and streams.

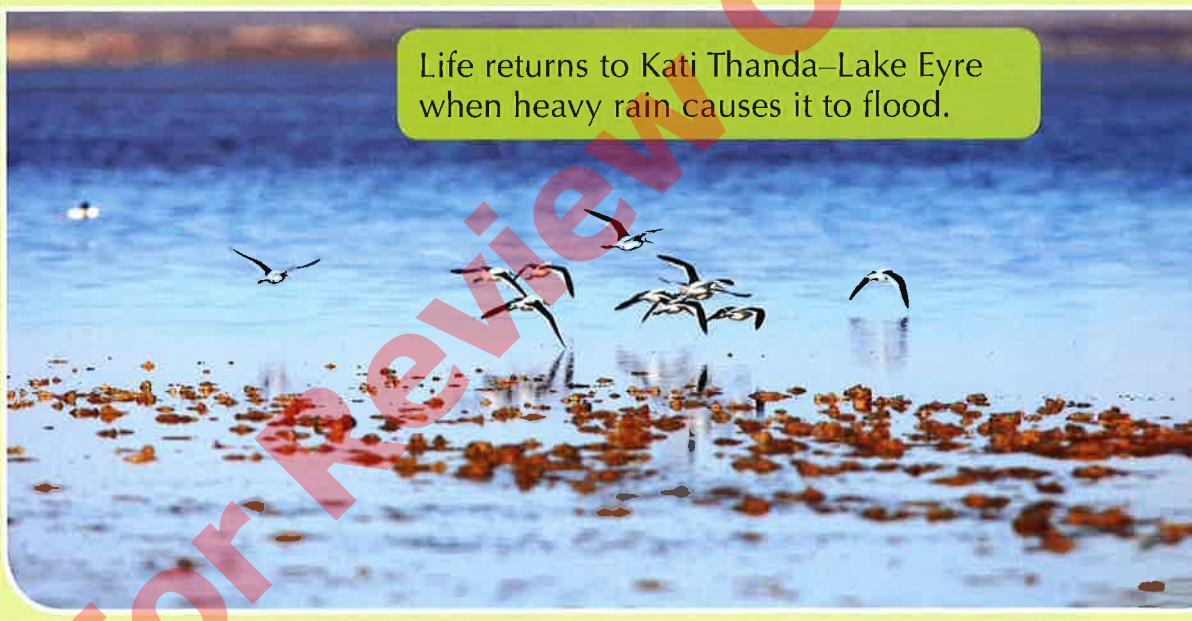


Mangrove trees grow in salty coastal waters.

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Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre, in South Australia, is a freshwater wetland that is usually dry.



Life returns to Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre when heavy rain causes it to flood.

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Some areas are wetlands all year round. Other wetlands become dry during some seasons of the year. Some animals cannot stay in the dry season. They must leave. Some frogs, insects and fish become **dormant** or leave behind eggs. After heavy rain, the wetland floods again. The wetland animals return. The dormant frogs, insects and fish wake up or hatch.

Major Wetlands of the World

Almost every country in the world has a wetland of some type. The wetlands shown on this map have some of the highest levels of biodiversity.



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