

Notes to accompany slide show – KS1

Overview

Description	These are notes to accompany a PowerPoint presentation for Key Stage One pupils. The PowerPoint along with the notes introduces the wetland landscape of the Avalon Marshes, Somerset.
Time	Allow 15-20 minutes to work through the 12 slides with your pupils, and encourage interaction throughout
Curriculum	<p>Science, year 1 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify, name and compare common animals • identify and name a variety of common plants <p>Science, year 2 –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for their basic needs • identify a variety of plants and animals in their habitats
Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarise pupils with the name ‘Avalon Marshes’ and where the marshes are • Instigate thinking and discussion about wetlands and wetland wildlife • Give pupils a broad overview of the characteristics and history of the Avalon Marshes, and how the marshes are used
Learning outcomes	<p>At the end of this introduction all pupils should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use three words to describe the Avalon Marshes • name a wetland plant from the Avalon Marshes • name a wetland bird from the Avalon Marshes • give one example of something that people do in the Avalon Marshes
Linked resources	<p>Pick & Mix – Wonderful Wetland Wildlife; Avalon Marshes Timeline; Life in the Iron-Age Marshes; Noses – A Wildlife Game; Colouring the Marshes; Creative Response to Landscape; Avalon Marshes Quiz.</p> <p>Factsheets – all of our Factsheets provide teachers with extra information and context.</p> <p>Audio – Avalon Marshes, A Peatland Story; Tales From the Marshes; Somerset Wetlands CD</p> <p>Film (YouTube channel) – various wildlife films; Sights & Sounds of the Marshes (films about farming, peat and history made by young people).</p> <p>Specialist equipment – Avalon Marshes Water Model; Avalon Marshes Peat Dig; Avalon Marshes Floor Map; Avalon Marshes Ruckles.</p>



Teachers' notes

Notes *Questions in italics are direct questions/instructions for pupils*

1. Avalon Marshes logo

Tell your pupils that they will be learning about a place called the Avalon Marshes.

Has anyone heard of the Avalon Marshes?

Has anyone been to the Avalon Marshes?

What can you tell the rest of the class about the marshes?

The Avalon Marshes is an area of wetlands. This means that there is lots of water there. It is a place that is wet, boggy, swampy and full of wildlife.

This is Otto the otter, who is going to show us around.

2. Picture of the Marshes

Here is a picture of the Avalon Marshes.

Click to see Otto. *Otto says: look at this picture of the Avalon Marshes. For 30 seconds talk to a partner about what you can see in the picture.*

What did you spot in the picture?

e.g. water, reeds, plants, trees, sky, Glastonbury Tor

3. Glastonbury Tor

The Avalon Marshes is the area of wetlands around Glastonbury and the Tor, in Somerset, England. It is full of water and wildlife – trees, plants and animals.

Click to see Otto. *Otto says: What plants can you see in this picture?*

Expected answers - Trees, reeds, grass

4. Plants

Because there is so much water in the Avalon Marshes, you find lots of plants and trees that like to be in wet places, including:

Reeds, willows, and yellow iris – all of these can grow in shallow water

Cotton grass and sundew (a carnivorous plant!) – both like soggy bogs

5. Glastonbury Tor

Otto says: Have another look at this picture. What animals can you see?

Swans love the Avalon Marshes because there is a lot of water and lots of plants.

What other animals do you think would live in the Avalon Marshes?

e.g. ducks, frogs, dragonflies, fish, kingfishers, starlings

6. Birds

There are lots of birds in the Avalon Marshes, including:

Hérons, bitterns, great white egrets and kingfishers

These birds like living there because they eat other animals in the water like fish, insects and pond snails

7. Other animals

There are lots of other animals that live in the Avalon Marshes and like the water too!

Dragonflies, otters (of course!), water voles, butterflies and snakes all love it in the Avalon Marshes

8. Stone-Age track-ways

People have been living in the marshes for thousands of years, finding ways to live in such a wet area.

Before there were roads people built raised wooden paths to get across the reedbeds and bogs.

9. Iron-Age canoes

And some people used boats to get around on the water.

Introducing the Avalon Marshes



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10. Peat

The Marshes have dark soil called 'peat'. For hundreds of years people have been digging this up to put on their fires, and to put in their gardens.

11. Farming

For thousands of years people have lived in the marshes and farmed animals there. In the Marshes today you can see cattle and sheep in the summer, when it's not too wet for them.

12. People

Now the Avalon Marshes is a place for people to live, work and enjoy. You can go cycling, walking, pond dipping, exploring, discovering and more.

13. Website

We've come to the end of the introduction to the Avalon Marshes.

Otto says:

Think of three words to describe the Avalon Marshes

Name a plant that lives in the Avalon Marshes

Name a bird that lives in the Avalon Marshes

Give an example of something that people do in the Avalon Marshes
