

## Estuary Ecology

**Approach:** One to one interview

**Level:** Year 8 & year 4

**Resources:** Video showing two children looking at an estuary, featuring wildlife and some evidence of pollution.

### Questions/instructions

An estuary is where a river meets the sea. In this activity we are going to look at a short video about an estuary.

#### Show video.

1. We've been looking at pictures of an estuary. Estuaries have some special features. What special features did you notice about the estuary?

	% responses	
	year 8	year 4
bird life	84	59
vegetation	37	11
river meeting sea	27	24
other	8	2
<b>OVERALL: features rated good</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>

2. In the video, Johnny said the estuary stank. Why do you think the estuary might have a bad smell?

pollution & decay	4	1
decay	11	6
pollution	54	48
<b>OVERALL: reasons rated good</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>

3. Johnny said they should fill the estuary in and build houses or factories there. Matthew didn't agree. What would be the advantages of filling in the estuary or putting some buildings there?

#### Advantages:

space to build	40	21
improved environment	18	9

4. What would be the disadvantages of filling in the estuary or putting some buildings there?

#### Main disadvantages:

displaced birds/animals	62	20
problems with drainage for river	43	34
decreased beauty	14	10

5. What is your opinion about what should happen to the estuary?

If you had to explain your reasons to Johnny and Matthew, what would you tell them, so that they would understand your opinion?

<b>Arguments rated good</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>9</b>
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