



TREASURES IN EDUCATION



WETLANDS OF THE UAE



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GUIDED PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

Project-based learning is a flexible curriculum planning tool through which students acquire knowledge and skills by working for an extended period to investigate real-life causes and challenges. Students research, analyze, apply information, design, share ideas, and experiences with their peers to develop skills for the 21st century under the guidance and mentoring of skilled educators.

This PBL programme about the conservation of the wetlands in the UAE immerses students in these natural treasures which are a vital part of the country's ecosystem. The learning through this programme is inter-disciplinary and is implemented through the pedagogy of inquiry-based learning, experiential learning, and the 6C's of education - creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, communication, citizenship/culture and, character education/connectivity. Activities are differentiated and Assessment for learning strategies is also used. Being a flexible programme you can use your creativity to link it with any formal subject in your school curriculum. The tasks can be completed manually or using digital tools. I have named a few tools in the curriculum programme. Popular free apps available from the apple store are **Mindmeister**, **Glogster**, **Myhistro**, **Animoto**, **Voice Thread**, **Audioboo**, etc. Educators should conduct whole class/group discussions and debates wherever possible.

As residents of the UAE, we all have a responsibility to protect our nation's wetlands. Through this programme, students explore many different modes to help raise awareness about the wetlands. Being a flexible programme you can use your creativity to link it with any formal subject in your school curriculum. Encourage students to compare and contrast UAE wetlands to the wetlands of another country.

Their portfolios can be presented in the school/local/national/global community. It provides opportunities for students to interact with the Emirates Environmental Group/Zayed International Foundation for the Environment.

As educators, most of you must have experienced by now that when you connect the learning of formal subjects to the UAE the learning becomes very engaging and effective.



Parental guidance is recommended while the child is using the Internet for research. Use Kiddle.co a safe visual search engine for children to research topics.

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I hope this innovative programme helps students to visualize and explore new dimensions in learning as a lot of care and thought has been put into crafting it.

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References

- Wikipedia
- The National UAE
- Zayed International Foundation for the Environment

