

ENVIRONMENTAL **LITERACY**

During the ecology unit in their local curriculum, grade 6 students investigated the “ecosystem services” that wetlands provide as a natural resource, such as improving local water quality and providing valuable habitat for birds and wildlife. They learned that wetlands are not only important scientifically, but economically as well since they provide outdoor recreational areas for environmentalists, tourists and hunters. Students then took action to help restore a wetland by planting grasses in collaboration with Pickering Creek Audubon in Easton . Students applied their knowledge of wetlands to think critically about an environmental issue: “How could climate change impact wetlands and ecosystem services on Maryland’s Eastern Shore?” They made claims, supported them with relevant evidence and described their reasoning.



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