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| **Saving the marshes�**  Salt marsh restoration is a fairly new science that had no "standard cookbook of tested methods and very few experts with answers" (www.aura). Each salt marsh is different and has unique characteristics depending on it�s location, so scientists have to take that al into account when they try to restore them. If something works on one marsh, it is possible that that technique may be very harmful to another. Even small differences can have a huge effect on the organisms living in the marsh.  Scientists have discovered that it is now possible to create entirely new salt marshes where old ones have been destroyed or have never existed before. They found it to be as simply as to remove a layer of fill that covers the old marsh and allow the plants to re-colonize themselves. This process takes a very long time because the "sediment deposition and removal have to reach a new balance" (www.aura). The process can be sped up by the formation of dredges and pumps, but most of the restoration is dependent on nature. The marshes now have a better chance to be restored to their natural state but there will not be a concrete answer until nature had taken into full effect.  **The Salt Marshes and Our Project�**  When we were trying to find a topic, we decided we wanted to research something that was relevant today, and we wanted something that we were interested in. We started out by going through books, newspapers, and talking to the people around us. Slowly we came up with the idea of looking into the reclaimed salt marshes.  After we had an idea of what we wanted to look into, we took a trip to the salt marshes. Just by walking around the marshes, we decided to go ahead with the topic. We then had to decide on a specific area to focus in on. We knew that we wanted to compare the salt marshes that had never been destroyed to those that were transformed into reclaimed salt marshes. Our curiosity seemed to revolve around concept of the salt marshes being restored to their full health, if this was even possible. After doing some research about restored salt marshes we found that a "research project first has to identify all of the major organisms that live the marsh. This means counting birds and their nests, digging up worms and other invertebrates that live in bottom muds, and identifying the plants that grow in, on, and right up through the water."(Hayward Marsh Expansion Project) This information helped to once again narrow down our topic to a population study, but at the same time we knew that there was no way that we could, in the given time, count all of those organisms.  The last bits of research that we did were to decide what type of organisms that we wanted to study and were able to study. Once again we ventured to the salt marshes and looked around. We wrote down everything that we saw, and later went over our notes. In the end we decided that because plants were the first organisms to start the re-inhabitation of the salt marshes and are the basis for all other life within the ecosystem, that plants would be our main focus. So our final topic was narrowed down to a population study on the different plants within the salt marshes that have been restored, in comparison to those marshes that have never been destroyed.  [<--- Back](http://docs.google.com/introduction3.html) [Next --->](http://docs.google.com/hypothesis.html)  [[Home](http://docs.google.com/home.html)][[Introduction](http://docs.google.com/introduction.html)][[Hypothesis](http://docs.google.com/hypothesis.html)][[Procedure](http://docs.google.com/Procedure.html)][[Data](http://docs.google.com/data.html)][[Conclusions](http://docs.google.com/conclusions.html)][[Bilio/Links](http://docs.google.com/biblio.html)]  [[2001 Projects](http://docs.google.com/index.html)][[2000 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP2000/index.html)][[1999 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP99/index.html)][[1998 Projects](http://docs.google.com/AP98/index.html)] |