Salt Marsh Studies

Explore closely our virtual Interactive Salt Marsh Tour and answer the following questions.

What are the three main functions of a Salt Marsh?

Why is it good to have a buffer from storms?

What are some of the plants and animals that help filter the water in the marsh?

True or False
Mark a T if the sentence is True
Mark an F if the sentence is False.

_____ Phragmites are invasive.

_____ Bayberry was used to make candles.

_____ It is not safe to eat Pickleweed.

_____ Birds come to eat small animals in the salt panne.

_____ Male and Female terrapins come on land.

_____ Osprey find a new mate every year.
Salt Marsh Studies
Fill in the answers below as you discover secrets of the marsh.
Use the virtual Interactive Salt Marsh Tour to help you.

The marsh acts as a Filter, Buffer and Nursery. What types of plants and animals help with each function.

Filter:

Buffer:

Nursery:

When plants and animals break down and rot they help build a healthy marsh, what does the marsh smell like?

Draw a picture showing how the marsh protects us from storms.
Watch our Virtual Aquarium Feeding

Directions: Draw a line from the animal on the left to what food it eats on the right!

Animal

- Sea Star
- Oyster Toadfish
- Whelk
- Purple Sea Urchin
- Crabs
- Diamondback Terrapin

Food

- Atlantic Silverside
- Flounder
- Atlantic Ribbed Mussel
- Fiddler Crab
- Atlantic Silverside
- Sea Lettuce
- Shrimp
- Whelk
Watch our Virtual Aquarium Teaching and Watch Tank

Closely monitor the behavior of the animals in the “tank” and keep track of what you observe.

How many animals are in the tank? ________

How many different fish do you see? ________

What color is the fastest animal? ________

Are any animals hiding? (circle one)

Yes          No

If yes, why do you think the animal is hiding?

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________
Virtual Creature Feature

Today’s Creature Feature is about

________________________________________________________________________

Where can you find them?

________________________________________________________________________

What do these animals Eat? (Circle one)

Meat    Plants    Both

Choose one creature. What colors do you see on it? (Circle all that apply)

Red  Orange  Yellow  Green  Blue  Purple  Brown  Grey  White  Black

What was your favorite animal discussed in today’s Creature Feature? Why?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Draw a picture of your favorite animal discussed in the Creature Feature above.
Word Bank

Horseshoe Crab
Snowy Egret
Dragonfly
Eastern Mud Snail
Fiddler Crab
Great Egret
Diamondback
Terrapin
Osprey
Atlantic Ribbed
Mussel
Laughing Gull
ACROSS

2.) Large flying insects that zoom around the marsh eating mosquitoes, and other small insects like flies, bees, ants, and even wasps!

4.) Brown in color, these filter feeding bivalves are capable of filtering 80 gallons of water a day!

6.) Tiny animals with a soft body and hard shell on their back, these creatures can be found along mud flats, intertidal & subtidal zones!

8.) Known as gentle giants, these creatures were alive with the dinosaurs!

9.) If you listen closely, you may hear a large nesting colony of these birds!

DOWN

1.) The male crabs have one small claw and one large claw which they wave around during a dance used to attract a mate.

2.) The ONLY reptile to live in the brackish waters of the salt marsh!

3.) Small white birds that wiggle their yellow feet in the marsh to attract fish!

5.) These very large birds of prey migrate from South America every year meeting their mate on tall nesting platforms.
Salt Marsh Bingo

Go explore outside! Cross out all the animals and plants you see as you explore.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bayberry</th>
<th>Great Egret</th>
<th>Osprey</th>
<th>Prickly Pear Cactus</th>
<th>Diamondback Terrapin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mallard Duck</td>
<td>Clam</td>
<td>Marsh Rabbit</td>
<td>Atlantic Ribbed Mussel</td>
<td>Red-Winged Blackbird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laughing Gull</td>
<td>Phragmites</td>
<td>Fiddler Crab</td>
<td>Green Heron</td>
<td>Oyster Catcher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pickleweed</td>
<td>Silverside</td>
<td>Willet</td>
<td>Rockweed</td>
<td>Poison Ivy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandlering</td>
<td>Sea Lettuce</td>
<td>Eastern Mud Snail</td>
<td>Snowy Egret</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Maze

When the Diamondback Terrapin nest they face many threats. Follow the maze to help the female Diamondback Terrapin lay her eggs and get back into the marsh safely.
Coloring Page

Color the picture.
Now that you’ve learned about the marsh and its different functions as a Buffer, Filter and Nursery try a fun experiment at home. Create your own filter so you can watch how water is filtered and cleaned.

You will need:

1) Empty clear plastic bottle (cut the bottom).
2) Gravel.
3) Coarse sand.
4) Fine sand.
5) Cotton/cheese cloth.
6) Clean container to collect clean water.
7) Dirty water (half fill a small glass of water, add soil and oil to it and stir to make a brownish colored mixture).
Constructing the filter:

1) Cut the bottom of the clear plastic bottle.

2) Fill the inside with layers of cotton/cheese cloth, fine sand, coarse sand and gravel (the filter sections), as you can see in the picture to the left.

3) Stand the bottle upside down on the top of the container.

Doing the experiment:

1) Pour the dirty water into the bottle, see the picture to the left.

*Please do not drink the water.*

How clean is the water that runs into the container?

________________________________________