Salt Marsh Explorers

Virtual Edition

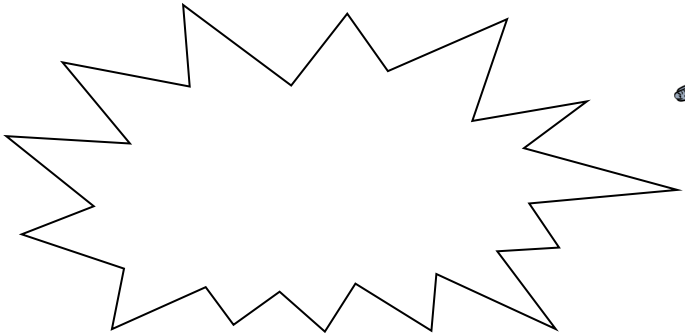
Ages 6-9

This Book Belongs to: _____

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?



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

_____

_____

Why is it good to have a buffer from storms?

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?

_____

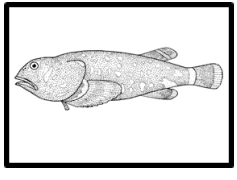
Draw a picture showing how the marsh protects us from storms.

Watch our Virtual Aquarium Feeding

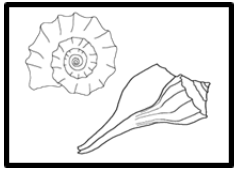
Directions: Draw a line from the animal on the left to what food it eats on the right!

Animal

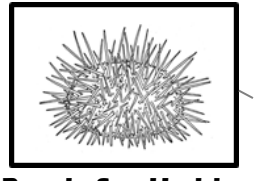
Sea Star



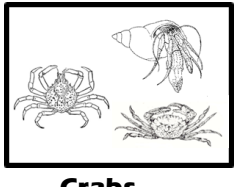
Oyster Toadfish



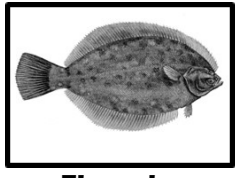
Whelk



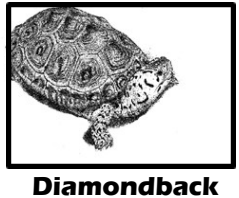
Purple Sea Urchin



Crabs

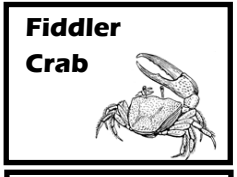


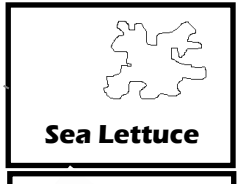
Flounder

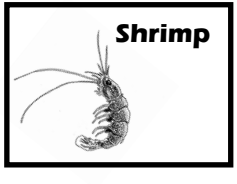


Diamondback Terrapin

Food







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?

_____

_____

Draw the number of animals you see in the tank in the box.

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 <u>one</u> 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

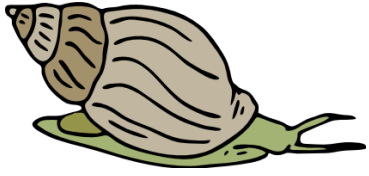
Great Egret

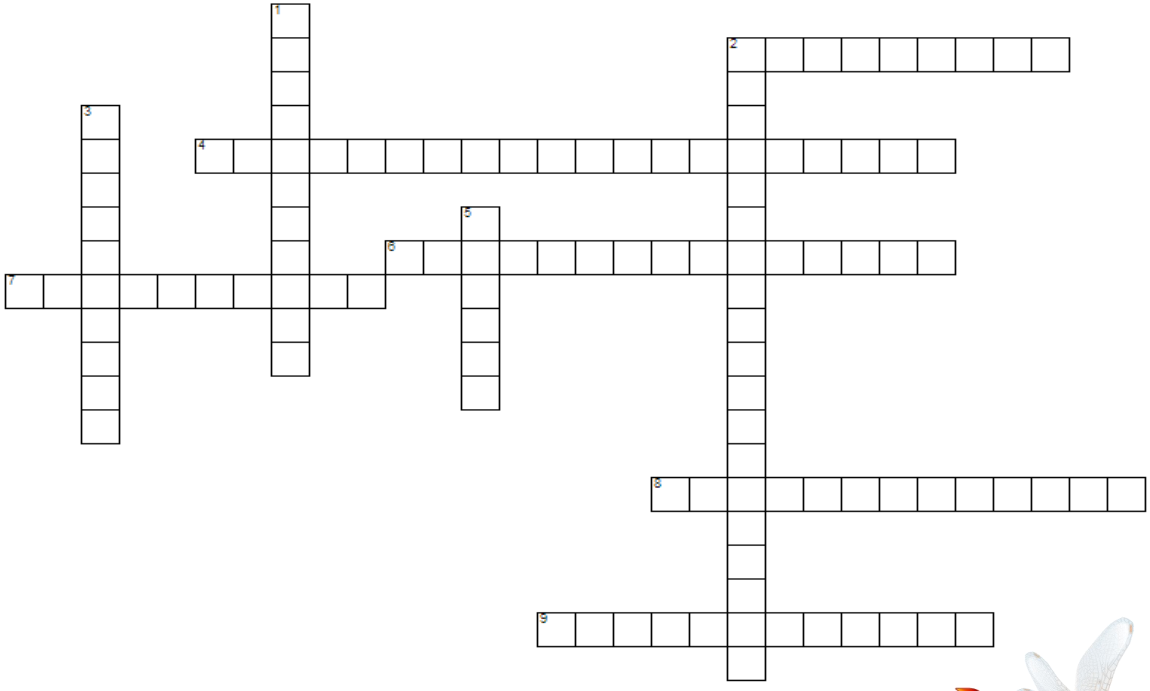
Diamondback Terrapin

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.

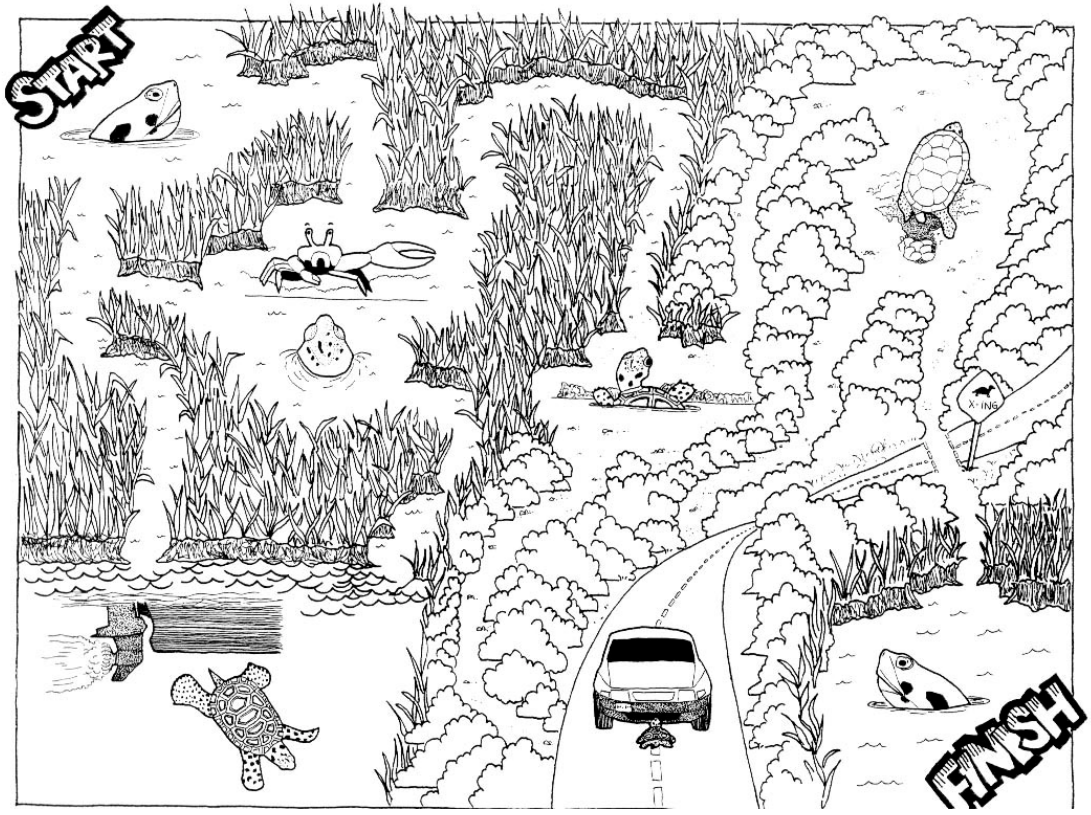
Notes and Questions

Things I learned...

Questions I have...

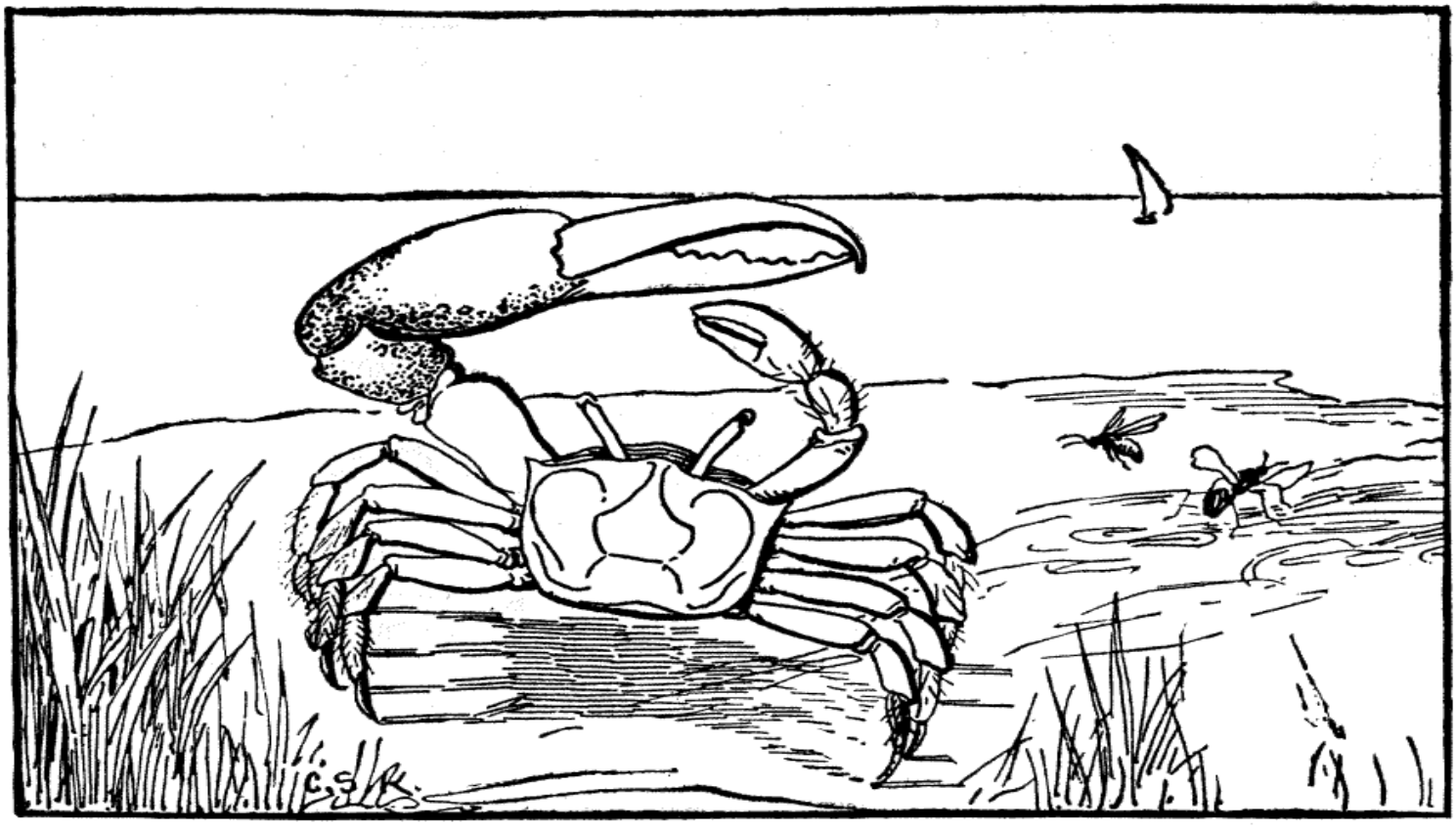
Maze

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.

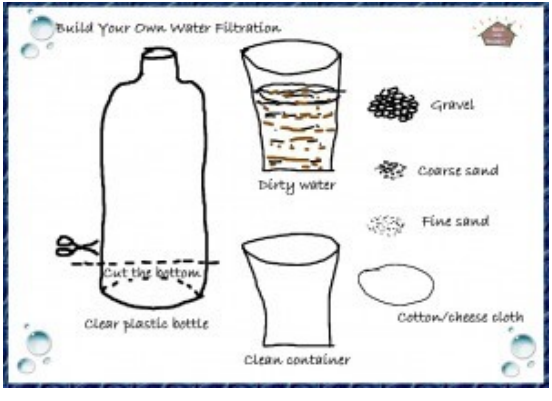


Experiment

Build your own water filtration system.

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.

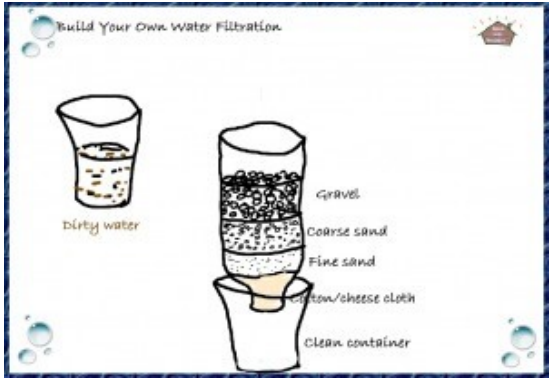
You will need:



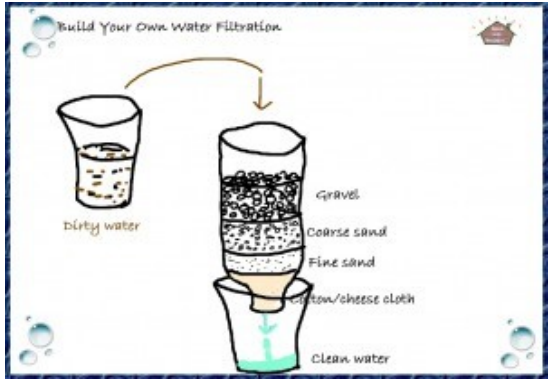
You will need:

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:



Doing the experiment:



Please do not drink the water.

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.**

How clean is the water that runs into the container?

_____