

The Last Laugh

Now that you've read some of my best jokes, it's your turn to make me laugh. Write your own joke in the space below!



Question:

Answer:

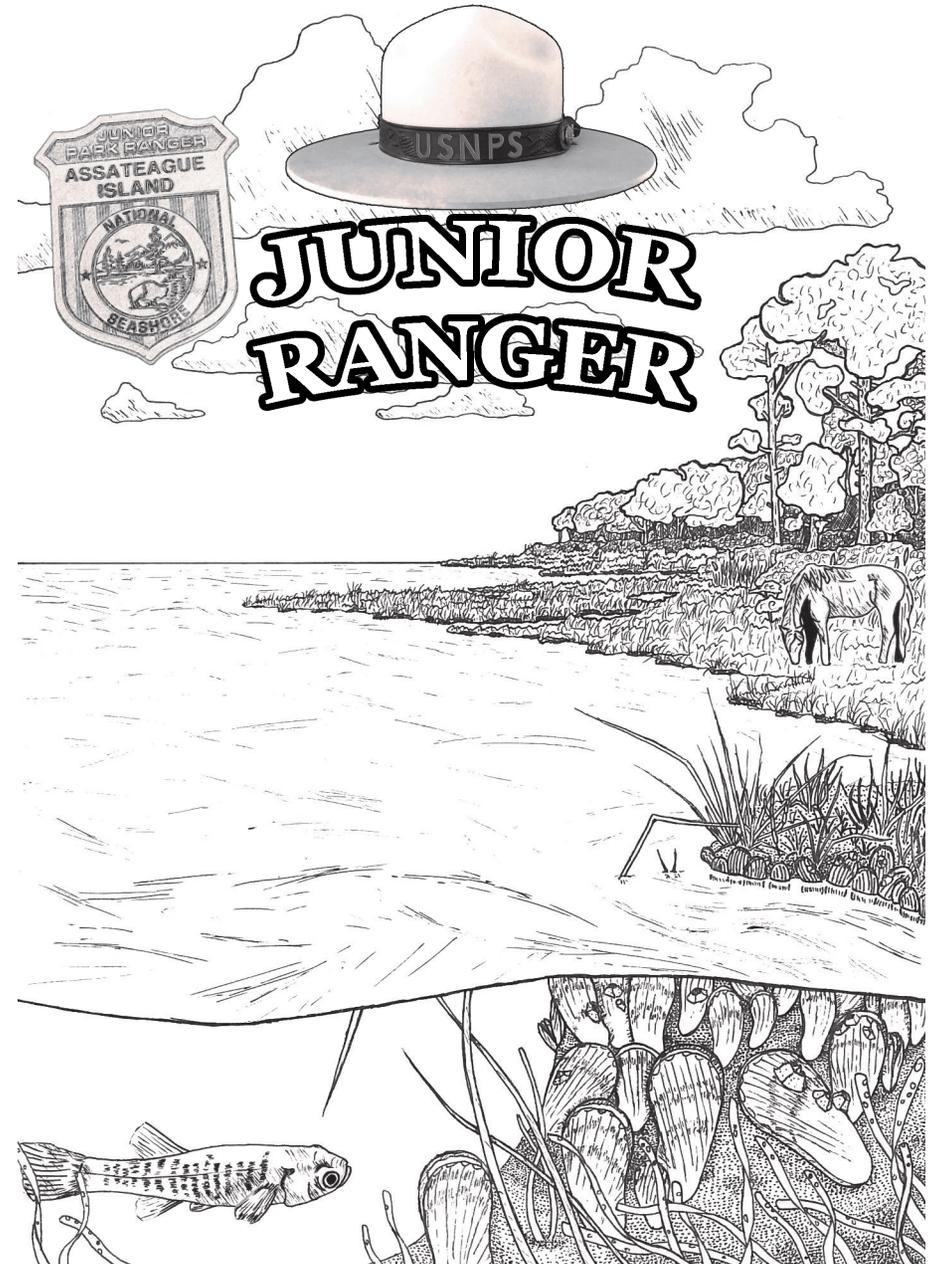
Assateague Island National Seashore
7206 National Seashore Lane
Berlin, MD 21811
410-641-1441
www.nps.gov/asis

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Assateague Island National Seashore

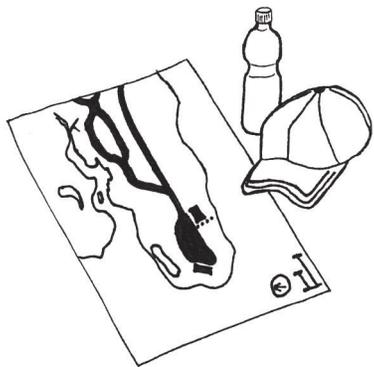
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



This book belongs to: _____

Safety First!

Here is a list of things you should always have with you while exploring Assateague Island.



- park map
- water
- snacks
- hat
- sunscreen & sunglasses
- insect repellent
- an adult (to help you carry all this stuff)

Before exploring Assateague Island - let's go over safety rules!

Stay on the l t i r a s to avoid poison ivy and ticks.

Use c e s n e r u s n to prevent sunburn.

e r h s o t s f y e a is your responsibility.

Keep a "u s b g l h t e n" away from wild horses.

Wear o s s e h to protect your feet.

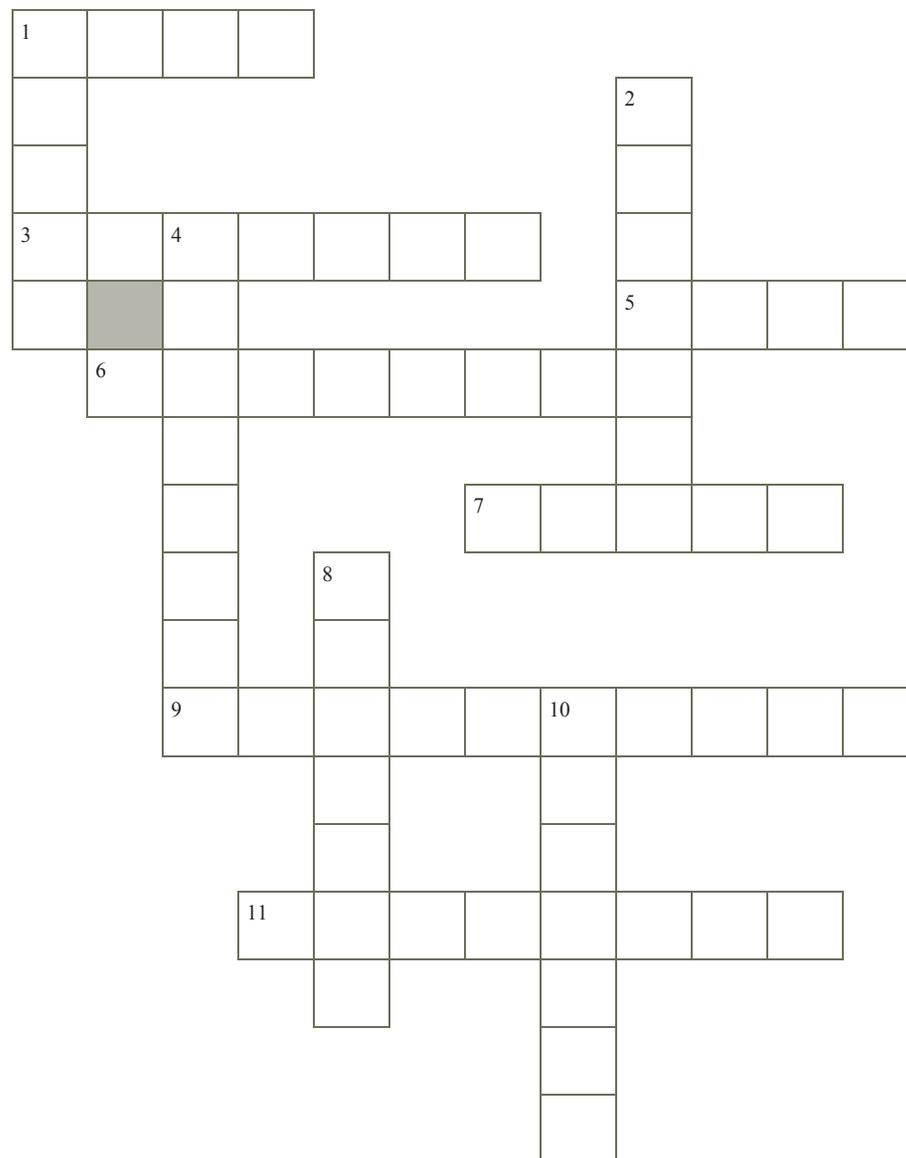
Swim when a s g d i u f e l r are on duty.

I am a **Laughing Gull** and I love a good joke. Look for some of my best jokes here in your Junior Ranger booklet.



Why don't sharks like to eat clown fish?

They taste funny!



Activity 18: Crossword Puzzle

Use the clues below to fill in the crossword puzzle on the next page.

Across

- 1 _____ and (1 down) are the forces that move sand and water reshaping Assateague Island.
- 3 The gradual wearing away of a shoreline or landmass.
- 5 Shorelines recede and coastal habitats are threatened as sea levels _____.
- 6 Assateague Island is designated as a National _____.
- 7 A manmade structure, often made of rocks, constructed to protect an inlet or harbor.
- 9 Tropical cyclones in the North Atlantic with sustained maximum wind speeds of 74 miles per hour or more.
- 11 Geology: Solid material that forms layers on the Earth's surface, often transported and deposited by water.

Down

- 1 (1 across) and _____ are the forces that move sand and water reshaping Assateague Island.
- 2 The steady flow or movement of water.
- 4 When storms move sand and water over a coastal dune or beach crest they create an _____ fan.
- 8 _____ islands are narrow coastal islands that protect the mainland from storms.
- 10 A long-term change in weather patterns and sea level is known as _____ change.



What do you call a bird in winter?

A brrrrrrrrrd!

**Welcome to Assateague Island.
Your seashore adventure begins here!**

Requirements:

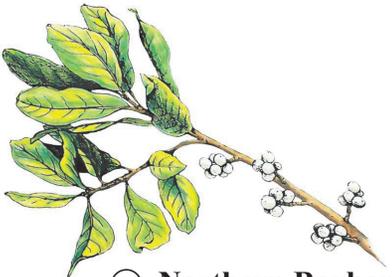
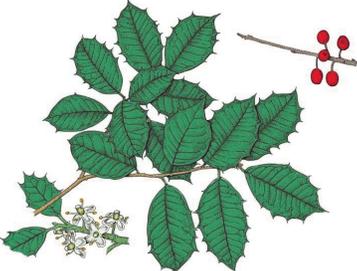
- Complete the "Safety First" activity in this booklet.
- Use the checklists on the next page to record plants and animals that you see while visiting Assateague Island.
- Choose and complete** activities in this book:
 - **Age 6 or younger:** at least 5
 - **Age 7-11:** at least 10
 - **Age 12 or older:** at least 15
- Look and learn!** Complete at least two of the following:
 - **Look through a telescope.**
What did you see? _____
 - **Explore a visitor center exhibit.**
What did you learn? _____

 - **Walk a trail.**
Trail name _____
 - **Attend a ranger led program or watch a park film.**
Title _____
What did you learn? _____

- Return your finished booklet to the Assateague Island Visitor Center or Toms Cove Visitor Center to earn your official Junior Ranger Badge!

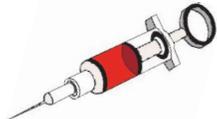
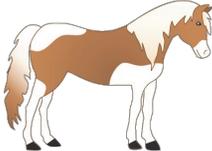
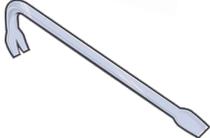
Plant Checklist

Check off the plants you have seen at Assateague Island.

 <p><input type="radio"/> Northern Bayberry The wax coated berries of this shrub were once used to make clean burning candles.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Loblolly Pine This fast growing pine species is well adapted to acidic, sandy soils.</p> 
 <p><input type="radio"/> American Holly A shrub or small tree with shiny, spine-tipped leaves and bright red berries.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Southern Red Oak These trees often have a short thick trunk and low spreading branches.</p> 
 <p><input type="radio"/> Prickly Pear Cactus A flat, rounded cactus found on well drained soils along the Atlantic coast.</p>	<p><input type="radio"/> Glasswort Abundant in bayside salt marshes, these plants turn bright red in autumn.</p> 

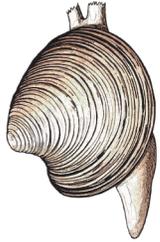
Activity 17: Tool Time

Animals have amazing adaptations that help them survive. Maybe some human inventors got their ideas from animals. Match the organism and its adaptation to the tool in the right column.

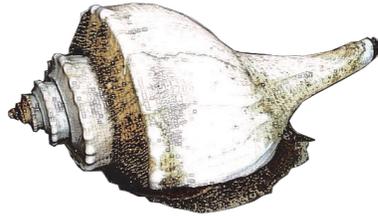
Organism		Tool
Whelk hint: opens		
Horse hint: swish		
Gull hint: up, up & away		
Mosquito hint: ouch!		
Clams hint: siphons		
Flounder hint: blends in		
Phytoplankton hint: uses the sun's energy		

Activity 1: Aquarium Animals

Explore a visitor center touch tank, and then circle the animals that you touched or saw.



Hard Clam



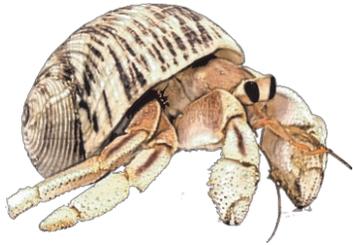
Whelk



Atlantic Ribbed Mussel



Skate Egg Case



Hermit Crab



Horseshoe Crab



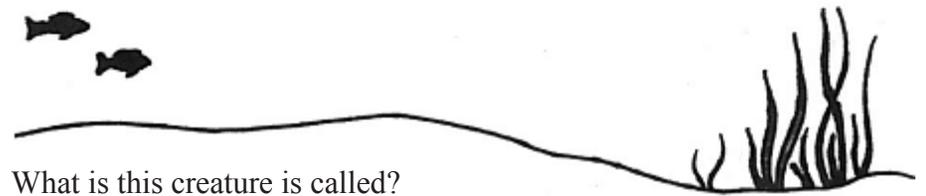
Whelk Egg Case

Something else? Draw it here.

What was your favorite thing that you saw?

Activity 15: Create a Creature

Invent a sea creature, draw it, and then answer the questions below. If you have trouble inventing a sea creature, observe animals that live in the visitor center aquariums.



What is this creature is called?

What does it eat?

How does it protect itself from predators?

Activity 14: Secrets of the Sand

Use the code below to fill in the letters and discover how Assateague is changing.

A = 1	G = 7	M = 13	S = 19	Y = 25
B = 2	H = 8	N = 14	T = 20	Z = 26
C = 3	I = 9	O = 15	U = 21	
D = 4	J = 10	P = 16	V = 22	
E = 5	K = 11	Q = 17	W = 23	
F = 6	L = 12	R = 18	X = 24	



Assateague is a _____ island.
2 1 18 18 9 5 18

Barrier islands are always _____ and
13 15 22 9 14 7

3 8 1 14 7 9 14 7

_____ and _____ make
23 9 14 4 23 1 20 5 18

Assateague change.

_____ can move _____ and
19 20 15 18 13 19 23 1 22 5 19

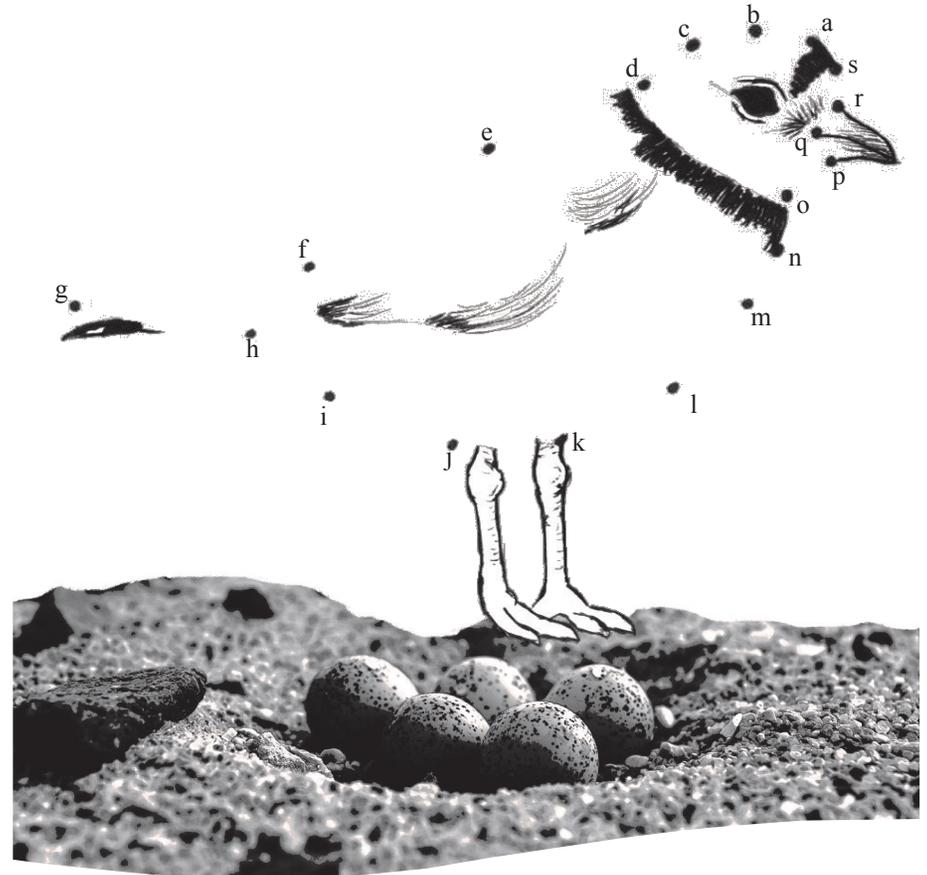
_____ over the island.
19 1 14 4

Assateague is moving _____.
23 5 19 20

What do you think Assateague will look like next time you visit?

Activity 2: Connect the Dots

Assateague Island is a great place to be a bird. Connect the dots below to reveal one bird species that comes to the island in spring to nest along the beaches.



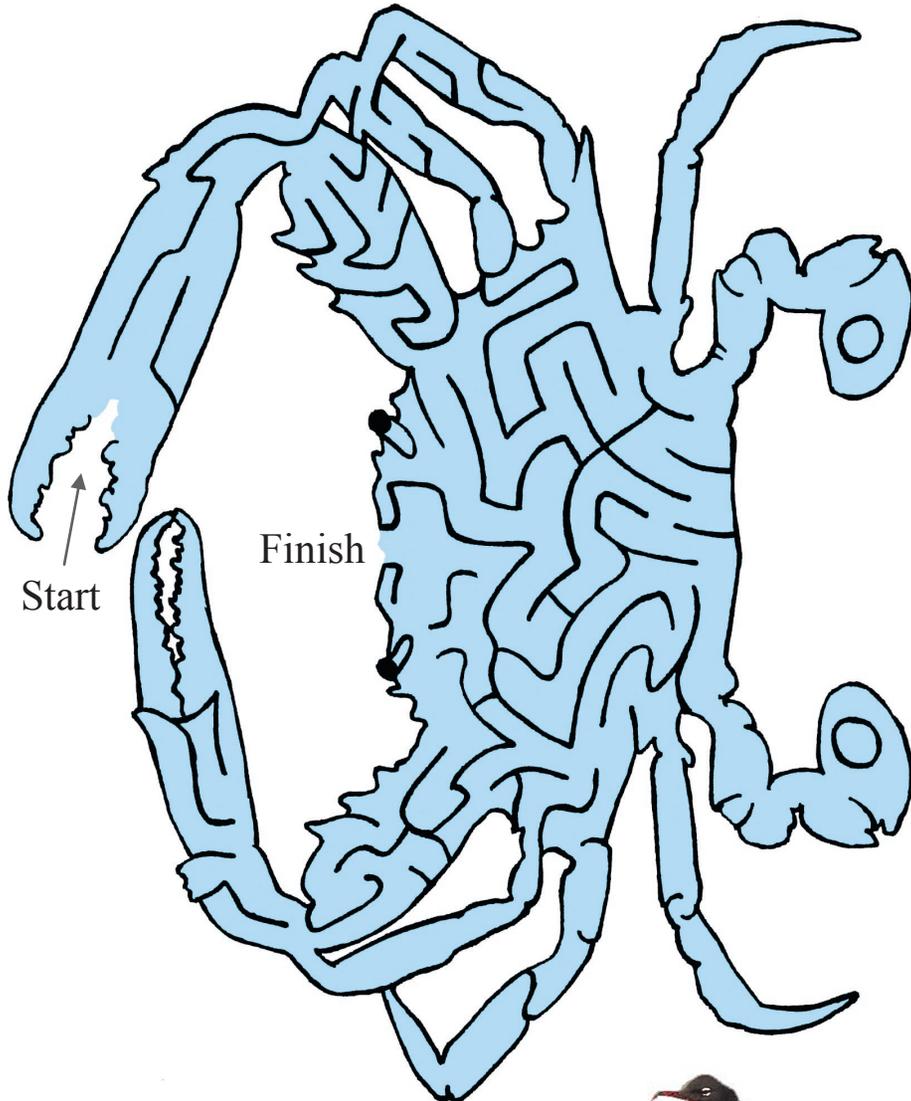
I am a small, sand colored shorebird with orange legs. I find food and make my nest on open, sandy beaches. In the United States, I am listed as a threatened species.

Who am I?

_____ G I I N P P _____ E L O P R V _____

Activity 3: The A-maze-ing Blue Crab

Did you know Atlantic blue crabs wear their skeleton on the outside? To grow larger, they must first shed their shell. Find your way out of the blue crab's shell before it sheds!



What does a crab do with a smart phone?

It takes a "shell-fie"!



A habitat is the place where plants and animals live. A habitat is more than a home, it's more like a neighborhood. Along with food, water, and shelter, a good habitat must also provide space.

Which habitat are you in?



What do you hear?

What can you smell?

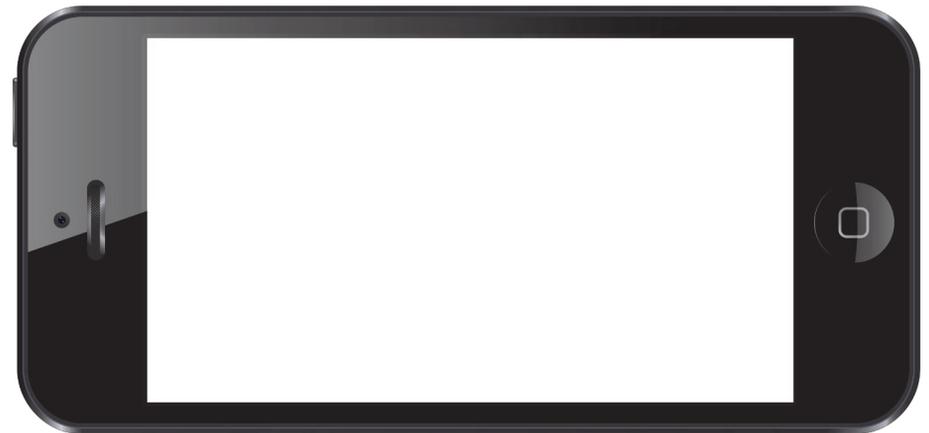


What type of plants do you see?
(grasses, shrubs, trees...)

What type of animals can you see?



Now draw a picture of the habitat on the camera screen below.



Activity 13: Barrier Island Habitats

Visit any of the habitat types shown below on Assateague Island. Find a quiet place to sit and observe the area around you for a few minutes, and then answer the questions on the next page.



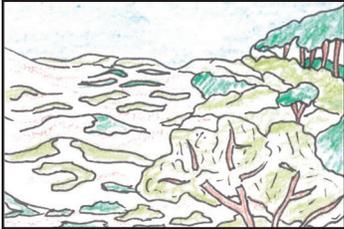
Ocean Beach

A mostly flat, sandy area. Bordered by the ocean to the east and dunes to the west.



Dunes

Sandy mounds shaped by wind. Partly covered with beach grass and small shrubs.



Shrubland

Grasses, shrubs and small trees grow in dense colonies sheltered from the ocean by the dunes.



Maritime Forest

Groves of loblolly pine, bayberry and other trees inhabit these areas that are less exposed to salt water.

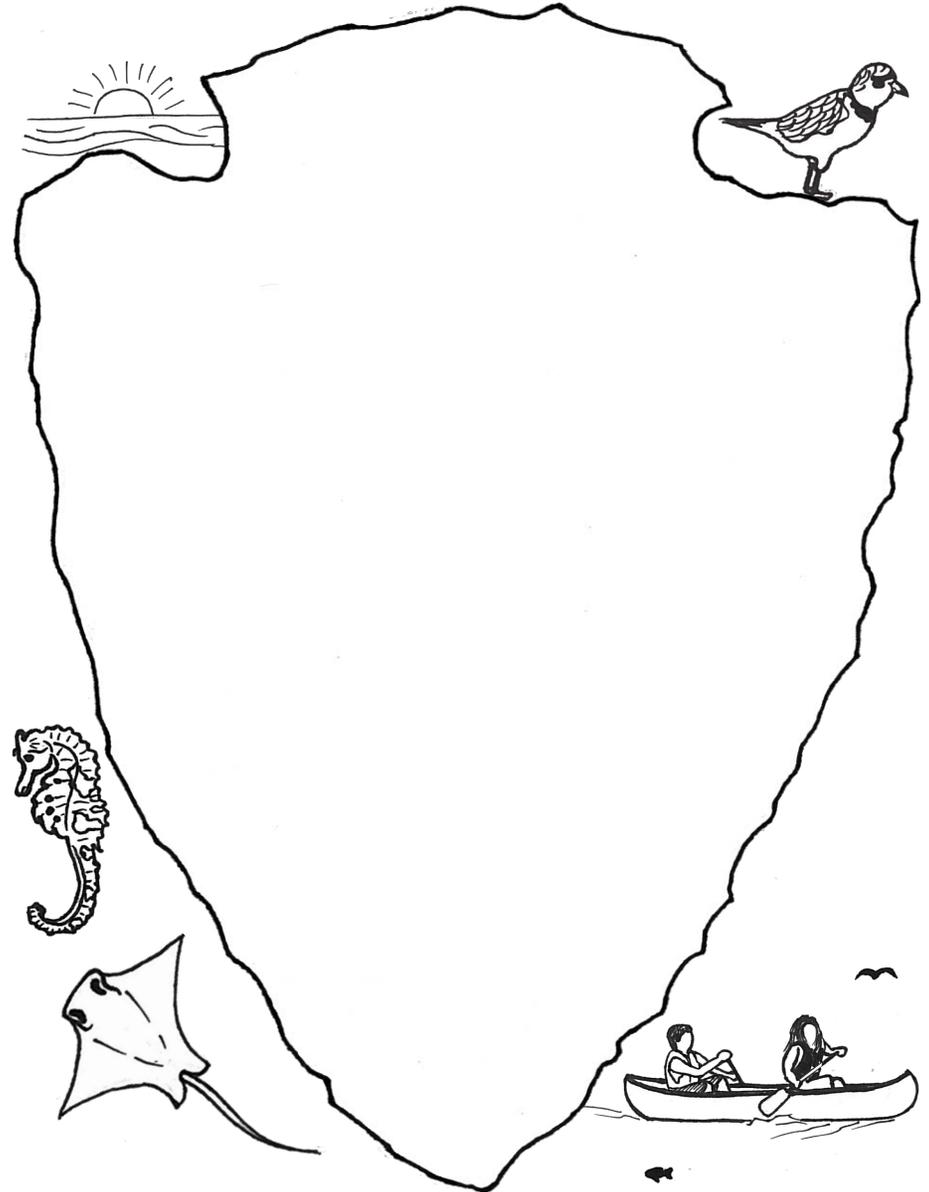


Salt Marsh

Exposed to the tides, only the most salt tolerant of plants can thrive in these grasslands along the bays.

Activity 4: Design Your Own

The National Park Service emblem represents the plants, animals, scenery, and history that it protects. Draw and color your own arrowhead. Draw what you think is important to protect at Assateague Island.



Activity 5: National Park Stewardship

Stewardship is all about doing your part to help protect the world around you. How can you do your part? Select the best answer (or answers) for the situations below.



You find animal bones on the beach. Should you...

- Take one for a souvenir
- Leave them where they are
- Tell a Park Ranger about your find

Horses are walking up to your picnic. What do you do?

- Store your food safely in your car
- Hide your food in a tent
- Offer them food
- Stay a safe distance away from the horses



You want to cook at your campsite. To prevent the spread of invasive insects you should...

- Buy firewood from a local store
- Use charcoal or kiln-dried firewood
- Bring firewood from home

Activity 12: Footprints

By looking carefully at animal tracks you can learn more about where they were going and what they were doing. Match the animal with its tracks.



Diamondback terrapin



Whitetail deer



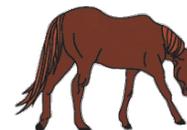
Ghost crab



Piping plover



Raccoon



Wild Horse



Red Fox



Activity 11: Beneath the Beach

Find out what a beach is made of by reading below; then find and circle the **underlined** words hidden in the word search below.

At a glance, a beach is made up of **sand** and **seashells**. Powerful storms often uncover buried **artifacts** like **shipwrecks**. Native American **arrowheads**, and even the remains of old **buildings** that have been claimed by the ocean.

Tree **stumps** and **marsh peat** (clumps of partly decayed vegetation) embedded within the beach are a sign that forests and marshes once grew there. Some animals like the **ghost crabs** make their home (called a **burrow**) in the sand.



S	E	A	S	H	E	L	L	S	M	B	E	
O	H	A	R	R	O	W	H	E	A	D	S	
T	C	I	M	E	B	H	D	R	R	A	B	
E	A	S	P	S	M	S	O	S	A	B	U	
R	F	E	N	W	A	T	A	U	E	U	W	
R	B	D	E	L	R	N	V	N	F	I	P	
A	U	I	T	R	S	E	A	D	D	L	T	
P	R	M	F	O	H	S	C	N	F	D	S	
I	R	E	R	L	P	W	R	K	E	I	T	
N	O	N	A	W	E				L	S	N	U
L	W	T	B	G	A				E	D	G	M
E	G	H	O	S	T	C	R	A	B	S	P	
A	O	K	A	R	T	I	F	A	C	T	S	

Activity 6: Island Geography

Coastlines are shaped and reshaped by the forces of wind and waves as they move sediment. Read the definitions of barrier island formations below. Then find each of these features on the map and fill in the blank with the proper label.

Bay—an area of water sheltered by land on three sides.

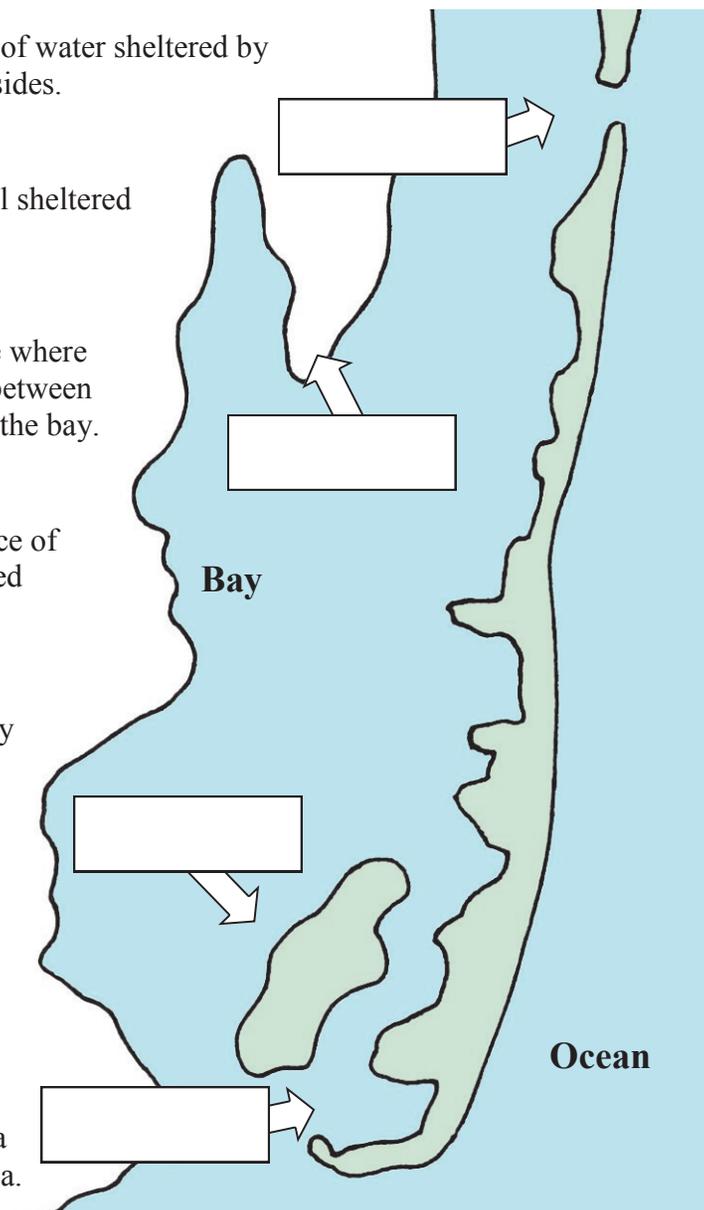
Cove—a small sheltered bay.

Inlet—a place where water moves between the ocean and the bay.

Island—a piece of land surrounded by water.

Ocean—a very large area of sea.

Peninsula—a piece of land that is almost entirely surrounded by water and is attached to a larger land area.



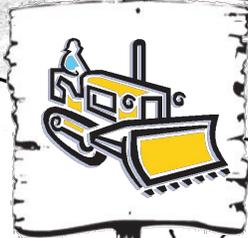
Activity 7: Assateague Island Time Travel

Take a trip down memory lane. Finish labeling the signposts with descriptions of historic events using the word bank provided.

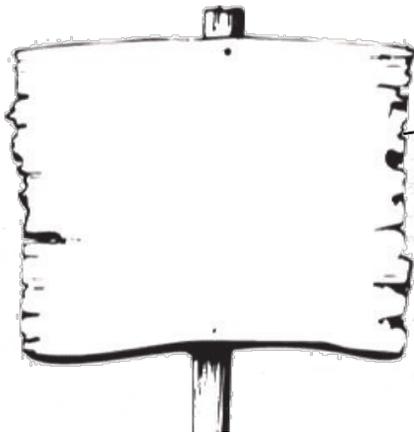


1524 Italian _____

Giovanni da Verrazzano sails into the coastal bays of Assateague Island.



1950s Private developers begin to build Ocean Beach, a _____ similar to Ocean City.



Today _____
(your name here)

visited Assateague Island.

(Draw your picture on the sign.)

Activity 10: Horse Identification

Park Rangers use visible markings to identify one horse from another. Try to find a horse in the wild, then make note of what it looks like in the space below.

Most importantly, always remember to give wild horses their space by staying at least a bus length away from them.

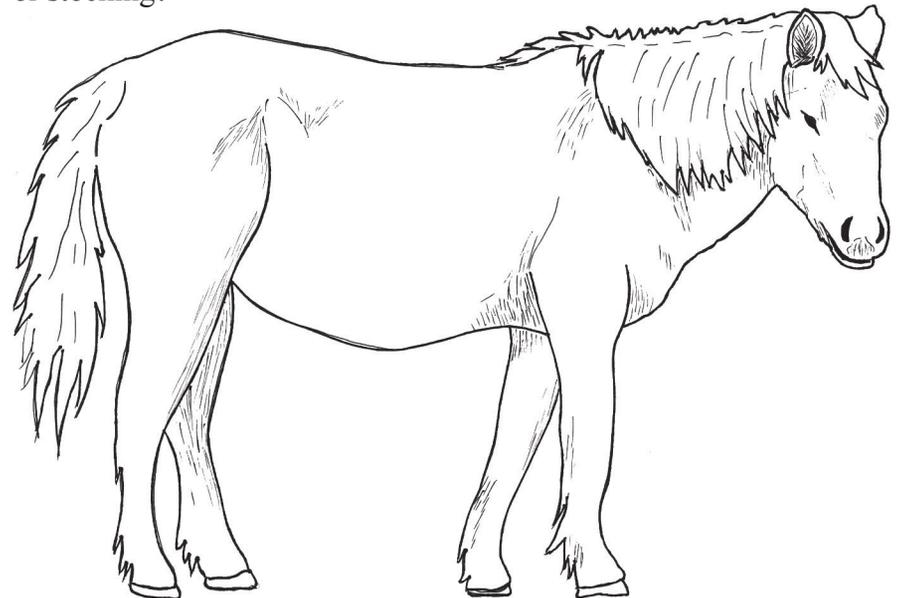
What color is the horse?

- Bay**—Reddish brown, with black tail and mane
- Sorrel**—Light brown, light colored tail and mane
- Pinto**—Patches of white on any color body
- Other**—Body color _____

Tail and mane color _____

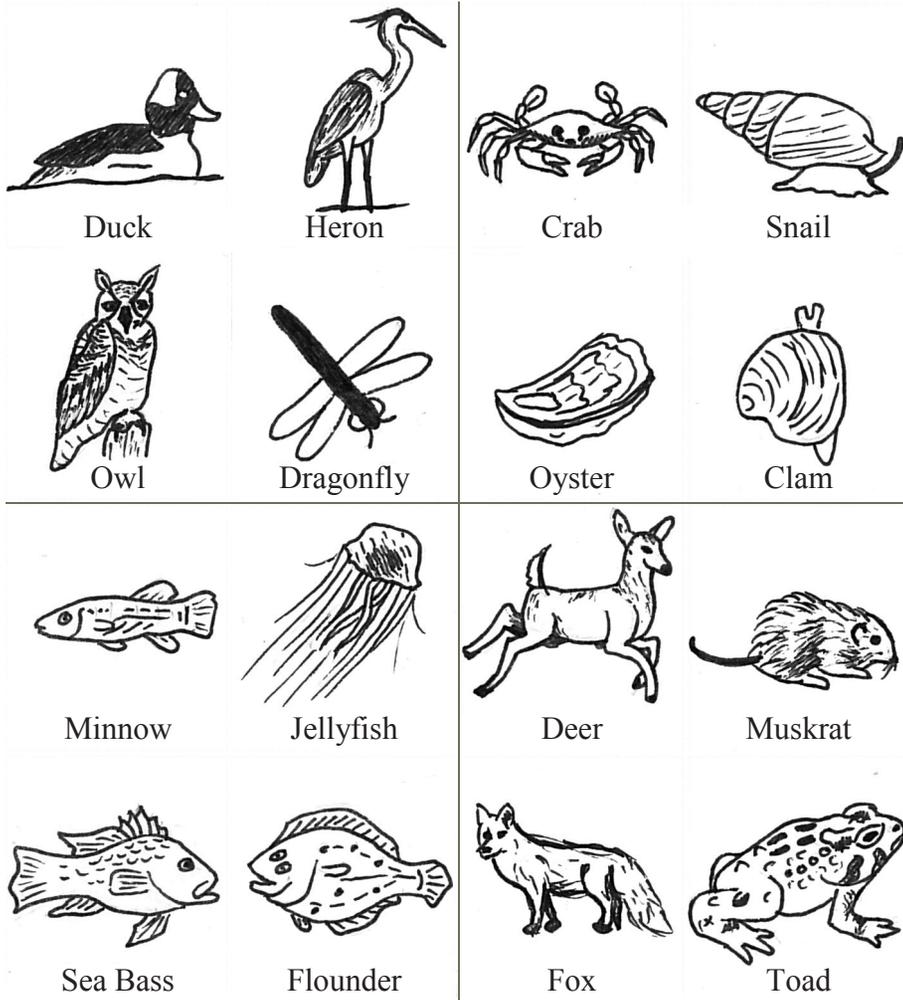
Other notes _____

Color or draw any markings that you notice. Can you see any white spots or a stripe on their face? Do any legs look like they have a sock or stocking?



Activity 9: One of a Kind

In each of the four groups below, circle the animal that does **not** belong with the others.



What is a great-horned owl's favorite math class?

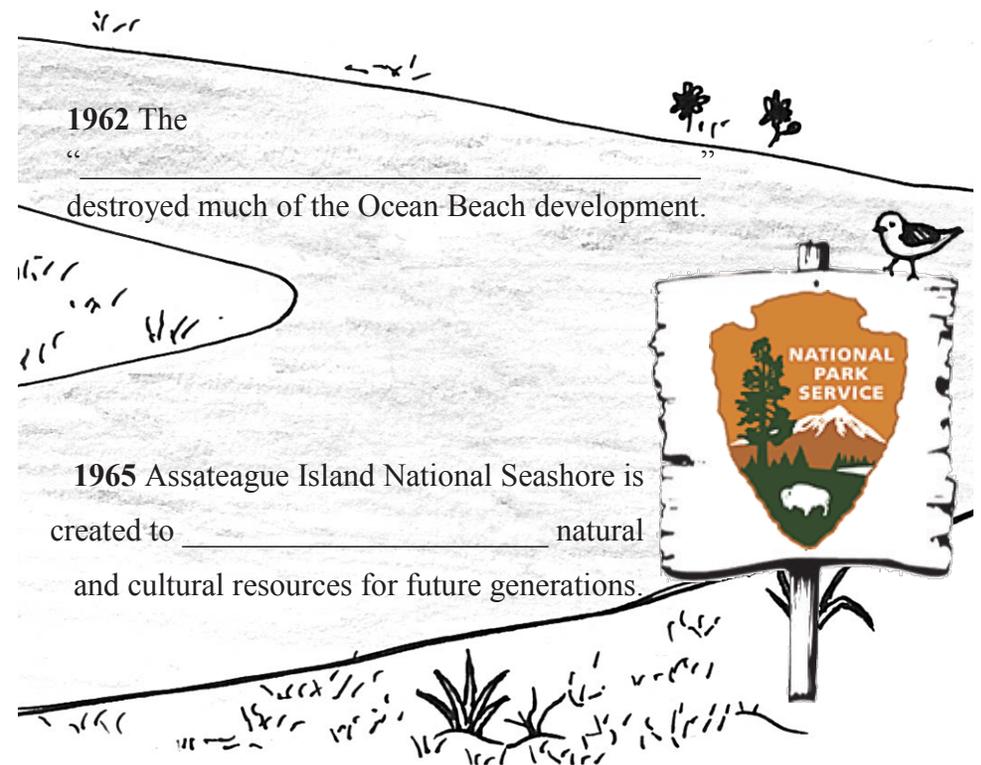
Owl-gebra

Word Bank

resort town	Ash Wednesday Storm	explorer
shipwrecked	preserve	separates

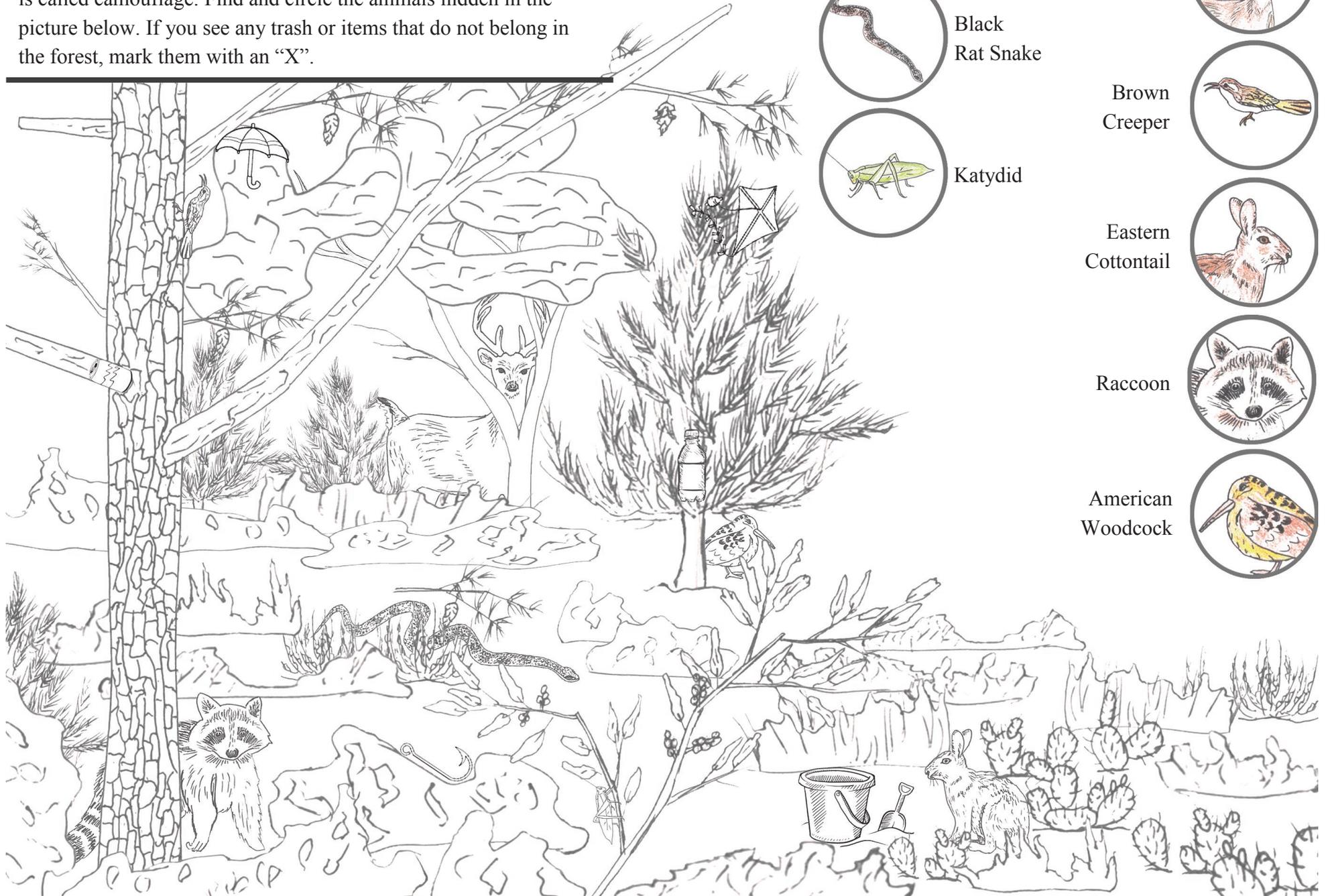
1875 The first U.S. Life Saving Service station on Assateague Island is built to help rescue _____ sailors.

1933 The inlet that now _____ Assateague from Ocean City is carved by a powerful hurricane.



Activity 8: I Spy

Some animals are adapted to blend in with their surroundings; this is called camouflage. Find and circle the animals hidden in the picture below. If you see any trash or items that do not belong in the forest, mark them with an "X".



White-tailed
Deer



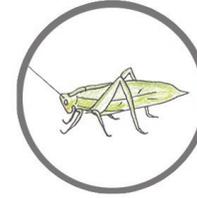
Black
Rat Snake



Brown
Creeper



Katydid



Eastern
Cottontail



Raccoon



American
Woodcock

