

Gateway

National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Gateway National Recreation Area
New York / New Jersey



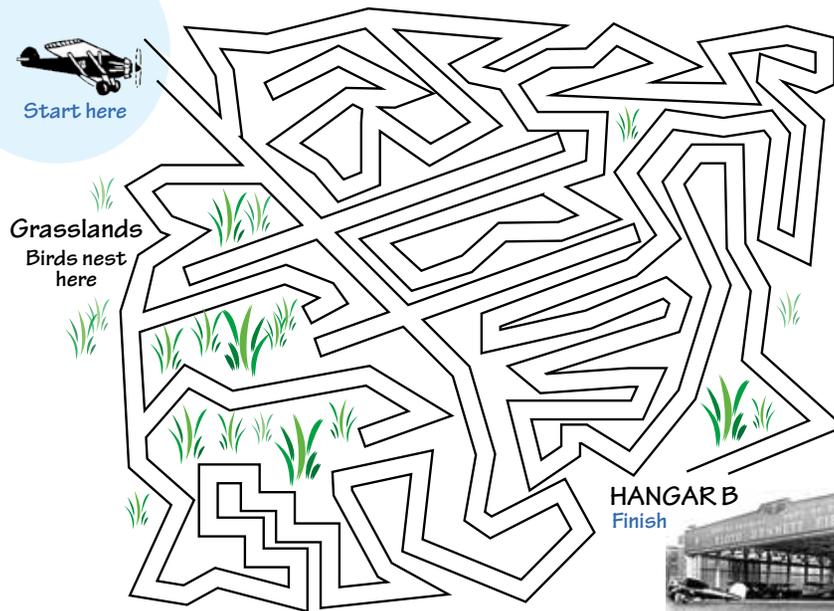
Control Tower Operator

The Ryan Visitor Center was the Administration Building for Naval Air Station – New York.

At the top of the building is the control tower where controllers would direct pilots so that they would be safe in the air and on the ground.

You are the controller at the airport and a plane has just landed at Floyd Bennett Field. Direct the pilot through the field to Hangar B.

You should go to see Hangar B too. Lots of cool planes inside.



This book belongs to
Junior Ranger:

This Junior Ranger program was created by park staff and Student Conservation Association Ambassador, Rikki Wise, through a grant from the National Park Foundation. Rev. Aug. 2014.



What it means to be a Junior Ranger:

Being a Junior Ranger means living up to the Junior Ranger motto, “Explore, Learn, Protect.”

Explore – Experience the exciting things that America’s National Parks have to offer.

Learn – You can learn from the National Parks, including information about America’s history, culture, and natural treasures.

Protect – Be a friend of the National Parks! **Leave no trace**, take nothing, leave nothing !

Most importantly...*Experience Your National Parks!!*



Things to Remember:

1. Avoid poison ivy. Poison ivy can cause an itchy rash when touched.
2. Check yourself for ticks! Ticks are common around Jamaica Bay.
3. Bring all of your gear.



What to Bring?

Fill in the blanks using the word bank, and then find those words in the Word Search beneath the story.

A boy and a girl planned to visit Jamaica Bay. To be prepared, they thought about their needs. First, they thought about a bottle of _____. Next, for sun protection, so they took a _____ with a bill, a high SPF _____ to protect their skin, and a pair _____ to protect their eyes. To protect them from insects that could bite or sting them, they brought _____. Then they were ready for a fun, safe day exploring Jamaica Bay.

To help them to become Junior Rangers they also brought _____, and a _____.



Word Bank

water sunglasses pencil
camera bug spray hat
sunblock

s u n g l a s s e s f
t k w x b q w u p s f
p l i o u m l n p a w
h a t q g n h b m b a
f h k x s x c l r n t
o o u b p l k o b g e
m u y v r b t c p d r
p o z x a p l k b t a
b v h g y h j t r r a
c a m e r a v q m a c
t k p e n c i l d n g

Salt Marshes & Freshwater Ponds

Salt marshes and freshwater ponds make the refuge special. The salt marsh is a wetland habitat where grasses that can live in salty water grow. Salt marshes are homes to many residents, including horseshoe crabs and killfish.



Muskrat

Freshwater ponds are refuge for many birds, like Canada Geese, and mammals, like muskrats. Some ponds are homes to frogs and turtles.



Canada Goose

People have always used the wetlands of Jamaica Bay. Native Americans fished in the Bay; in colonial times, they fed their livestock salt marsh grasses.

Over time people have filled in areas of the bay, creating islands such as Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. How do people use the wetlands today?

On this page is Wetlands Tic-Tac-Toe. You can play alone, or with another person. Mark items that you see on the trail or in the exhibits.

Get all three in any row, and you will have Tic-Tac-Toe!

 Freshwater Pond	 Terrapin	 Boat
 Salt Marsh	 Osprey Platform	 Tree Sparrow
 Gull	 Clam	 Phragmites

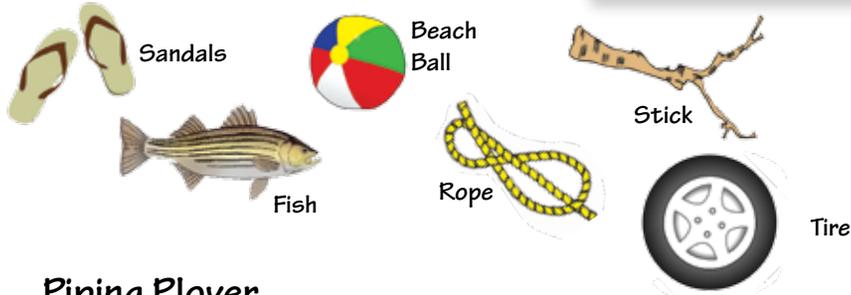
Wetlands Tic-Tac-Toe

The Osprey's Dream House

Ospreys are migratory birds that summer at Jamaica Bay, and eat mostly fish, which they catch with their talons.

Find the nest platform outside near the West Pond Trail, and the models of the birds inside the exhibit.

Ospreys build large nests out of sticks, and often include some surprises. Circle the objects that you might find in an Osprey's nest:

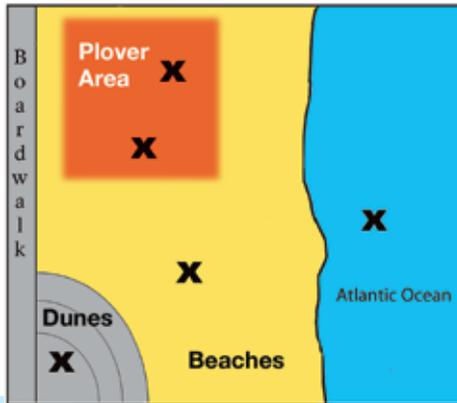


Piping Plover

The Piping Plover mother is looking to build a nest so she can safely lay her eggs. On the map below are some places marked with an "X" where she might nest. Circle the "X"s on the map where she could safely nest.

The National Park Service protects the wildlife in its parks. Some endangered species, like Piping Plovers, really need our protection

because they are in danger of disappearing forever. When species disappear, this affects the biodiversity of our planet. Biodiversity is one of the things that helps to keep the environment balanced and the earth healthy.



What is a Refuge?

The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is place where plants and wildlife are protected from being disturbed, hunted, or destroyed.

Just Passing Through ...

Migration is a journey from one place to another so that species have food and shelter throughout the year.

Many birds migrate, and so do some butterflies, dragonflies, fish, and bats.

The wildlife refuge is a migration destination for some animals, and a resting place along the way for tired and hungry species.

Inside, at the exhibit about migration, find the large map with three birds and their migration routes.

Which bird migrates the farthest? _____

Which bird does not migrate? _____

If you were migratory, where would you like to migrate to? And, why?

Wild in the City

Nature can be found all over the Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area.

From the Atlantic Ocean at Jacob Riis Park, to the wildlife in Fort Tilden, and along the runways of Floyd Bennett Field, and throughout the Jamaica Bay, nature in the city will be seen.

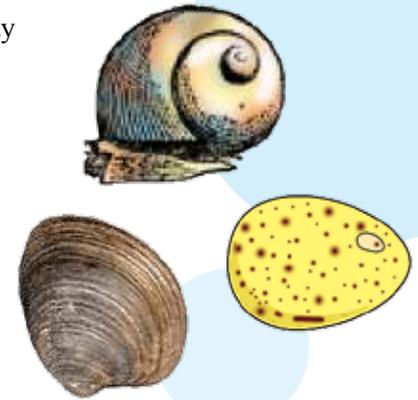
You might see an osprey in the sky, a fish in the sea, or the three leaves of poison ivy.

What other wild things might you find?

You will find all kinds of shells along the shores and beaches of Jamaica Bay.

Match the shell with its name.

The Old Shell Game



Piping Plover Egg Clam Moon Snail

Habitat Match - up

A habitat has shelter, air, water, food and space, where plants and animals can live and grow. The refuge habitats include woodlands, grasslands, freshwater ponds, salt marshes, and the bay.

Gray tree frogs live in the freshwater ponds; Monarch butterflies in grasslands. Some animals cross between habitats, such as snow geese, which use the marsh, the bay and freshwater ponds.

Draw a line to match the plants and animals with their habitats.



Prickly Pear Cactus



Gray Squirrel



Horseshoe Crab



Gray Tree Frog

Salt Marsh

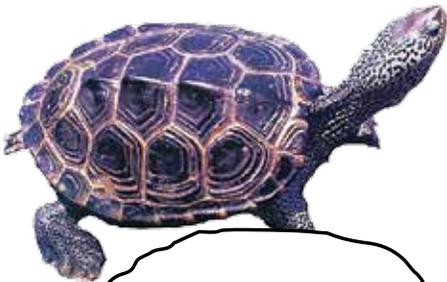
Grasslands

Fresh Water Pond

Woodlands

Terrapin Fingerprints

Thousands of diamondback terrapins live in Jamaica Bay because the water is brackish. Brackish water is a mix of fresh and salt water so it is not as salty as the ocean and not as fresh as the water we drink. Diamondback terrapins are the only North American turtles that live all their lives in brackish water.

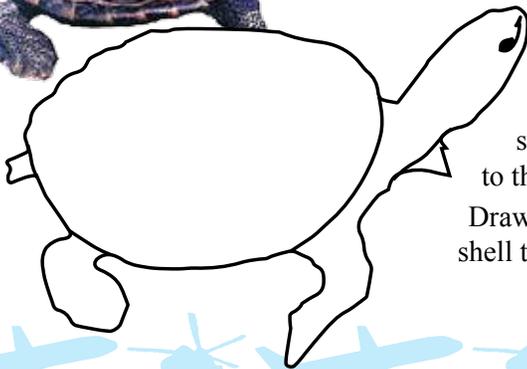


If you are at the refuge during the summer, you might see the female terrapins dig their nests and lay their eggs in the sandy soils along the trails.

If you see a female digging and laying, be very quiet and still. If you see a baby turtle, please do not disturb it!

Every turtle shell is unique-similar to human fingerprints-to that individual turtle.

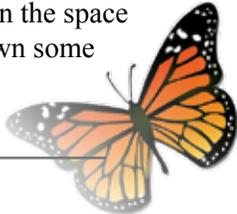
Draw what you would want your shell to look like here.



Flight Everywhere

There is flight all around Jamaica Bay. If you look up and around, you might see airplanes, helicopters, birds, butterflies and even bats at night.

Turn around in a circle and look for anything that you see flying. Write down what you see in the space below. If you see nothing flying, write down some things that you have seen flying.



First Solo Flight Around the World

In 1933, Wiley Post became the first pilot to fly solo around the world. He left Floyd Bennett Field on June 24, and returned eight days later. His plane was named the Winnie Mae of Oklahoma City, a Lockheed Vega.

Connect the dots to see the whole plane.

