



FUN FACTS AND ACTIVITY BOOKLET



Here to Save America's WETLAND!



ChevronTexaco

Hi Friends,

This is your invitation to join us as we explore a very special place called America's WETLAND, the valuable landscape located along Louisiana's coast. Many creatures spend all or part of their lives in the wetland. Some of them visit the wetland to find their food. The wetland is also a place that is valuable to people for homes, natural resources, and recreation.

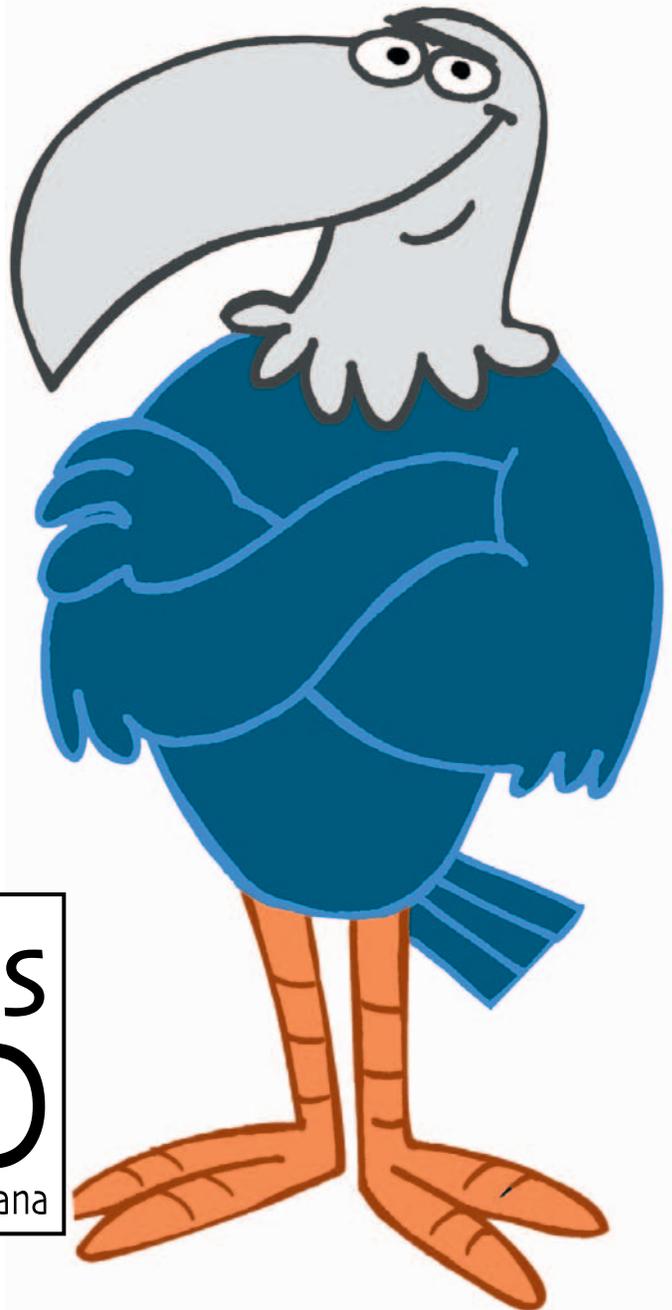
Sadly, America's WETLAND is vanishing at a rate of 25 square miles a year! My friends and I hope this booklet will help you learn more about America's WETLAND.

We hope you will help us save it.

For America's WETLAND,
this is

Capt. Eddy

Captain Eddy and the Estuarrians

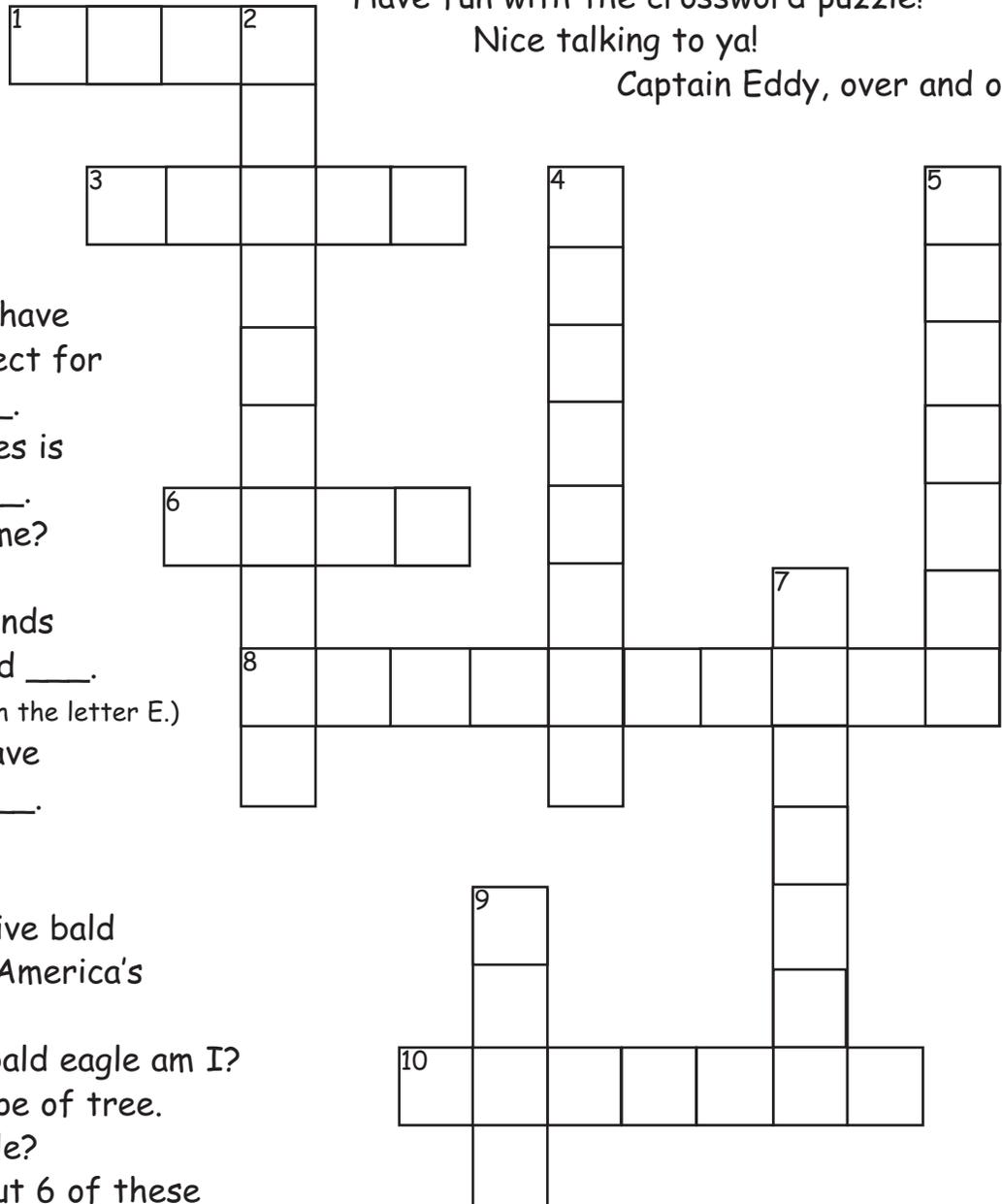


Ahoy, mates. **Captain Eddy** the eagle here. I'll be your captain during your journey through America's WETLAND. Have you ever heard of a cypress tree? If you find a grove of them, you just might find an American Bald Eagle's nest. There are about 200 active bald eagle nests in America's WETLAND, and most of them are in cypress trees. Cypress trees are tall with strong branches perfect for holding our nests, which can be six feet across! Cypress trees are important to our way of life. Please help protect them for future little Eddies!

Have fun with the crossword puzzle!

Nice talking to ya!

Captain Eddy, over and out!



Across:

- 1. Cypress trees have branches perfect for holding a _____.
- 3. A group of trees is called a _____.
- 6. What is my name?
- 8. My America's WETLAND friends and I are called ____.
(Hint: It starts with the letter E.)
- 10. We need to save America's _____.

Down:

- 2. Number of active bald eagle nests in America's WETLAND.
- 4. What kind of bald eagle am I?
- 5. My favorite type of tree.
- 7. What is my title?
- 9. My nest is about 6 of these across.

Note: There are no blank spaces included in the puzzle answers.



I'm **Salty** the shrimp. I hatched in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico and then made my way to an estuary in America's WETLAND. I ate some good phytoplankton and detritus there. I grew about three inches and swam back to the Gulf to spawn. I love the saltwater, but I need the protected waters of the estuary to grow up in. Solve this message and puzzle to find out where I live.

Use the following words to fill in the blanks and solve the puzzle. Place one letter from each word in the blanks and circles.

Detritus
Phytoplankton

Estuary
Saltwater

Life Cycle
Spawn

1. Stages of development in the life of an organism

○ _____

2. Dead, decaying plant material

○ _____ ○ _____

3. Tiny creatures found in water that use sunlight to store energy

_____ ○ _____

4. To produce eggs in great quantity

_____ ○ _____

5. Ocean or sea water containing dissolved salts

_____ ○ _____

6. The place where fresh and saltwater mix.

○ _____

Unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence below.

Salty lives in America's

_____.

Hi gang! My name is **Delta**, and I am a dolphin. I'm named after the part of the rivers that helped form America's WETLAND. The Mississippi River Delta was formed when sediments were carried southward from the Mississippi, Missouri, Platte and Red rivers. The sediment carried by these rivers created new land here in Louisiana.

Did you know that the wetland and delta areas help protect the land, including New Orleans, from big waves caused by hurricanes? It's so awesome that you are learning more about the wetlands. Check out this cool secret code and see if you can uncover the messages.

Hint: Each number represents a letter, for example 1=A, 2=B, 3=C
Use the key below to help you decode the sentences below.

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

Here is the first sentence:

8-5-12-16 19-1-22-5 1-13-5-18-9-3-1-19

23-5-20-12-1-14-4.

Now try this long sentence:

20-8-5 13-9-19-19-9-19-19-9-16-16-9 18-9-22-5-18

3-1-18-18-9-5-19 19-5-4-9-13-5-14-20 6-18-15-13

20-8-9-18-20-25 15-14-5 19-20-1-20-5-19.



DID YOU KNOW:

MILLIONS AND MILLIONS OF BIRDS CALL AMERICA'S WETLAND THEIR HOME DURING THE WINTER.

Hey man, I'm **Reed** the reptile. Not many years ago, my kind was almost wiped out, but humans realized how important alligators are and helped us. Now, it's my turn to help humans get rid of pesky nutria, a species that destroys the wetlands. They are my favorite snack. Have you ever tasted nutria? Speaking of food, I probably wouldn't try to catch and eat you for my lunch, but it would be better if you just tell me "hello" from a distance.

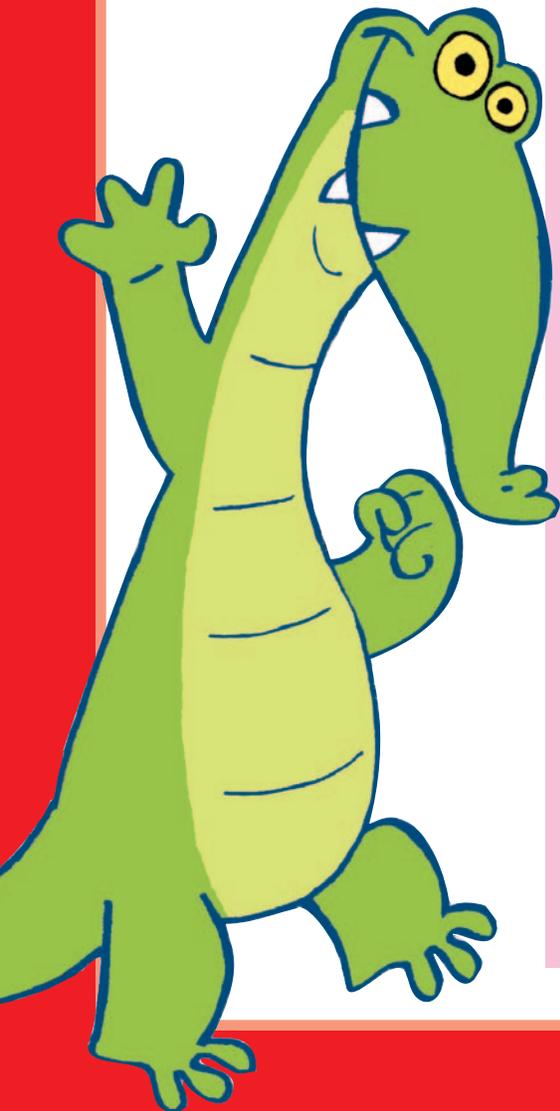
Use this **Word Builder** to see how many three, four, and five-letter words you can make from the following sentence:

"Respect our habitat."

3-Letter Words
Example: HOT

4-Letter Words
Example: SEAT

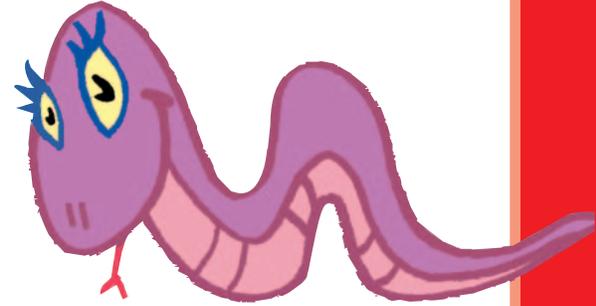
5-Letter Words
Example: BATCH



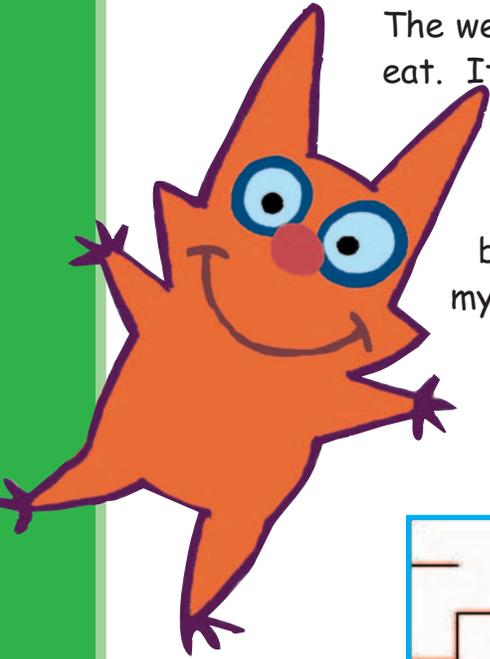
I'm **Mossy** the water moccasin. Maybe you've seen something called Spanish moss? It hangs from trees in America's WETLAND. Moss is very common here in Louisiana and so are water moccasins like me. I hide in a variety of places. You might find me under a log or swimming in a bayou or lake. The scenery is beautiful where I live. Why don't you come and visit sometime?

Draw a 4-scene cartoon to show how the Estuarians and I help save America's WETLAND.

Use your favorite estuary characters. I've started you out by including me in the first box! Now, you add other characters and backgrounds, and fill in the talk bubbles.



Hi! My name is **Rocky** the raccoon, and I live near Mossy. Have you heard about America's WETLAND vanishing? Well, I know it's true because I live there.

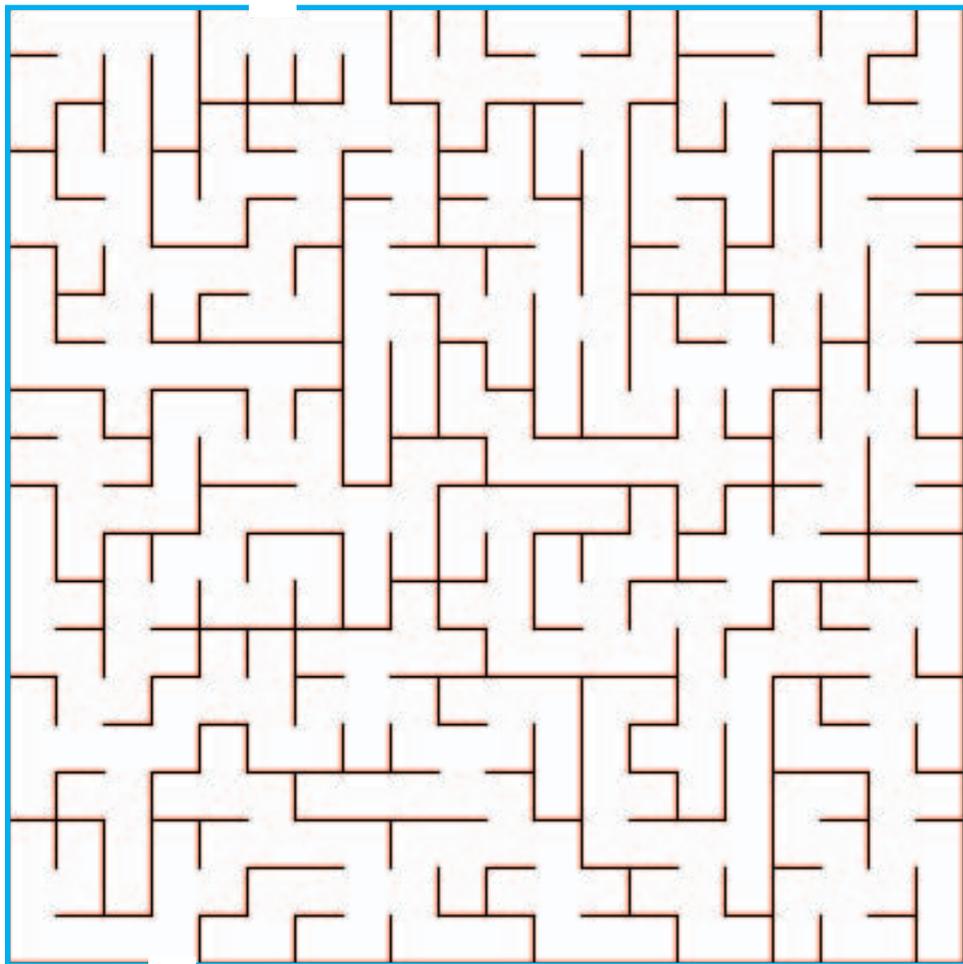


The wetland is where I get my food. I swim out in the marsh to eat. It's kind of like driving through a fast-food restaurant.

On a good day, I can find crabs, oysters, mussels, fish, and dragonflies. Wow! What a feast! I don't want to lose my drive-through any more than you do! So, be quick and figure out what you can do to help me keep my marsh restaurant!

Start at the top and help Rocky make his way down to the end.

START



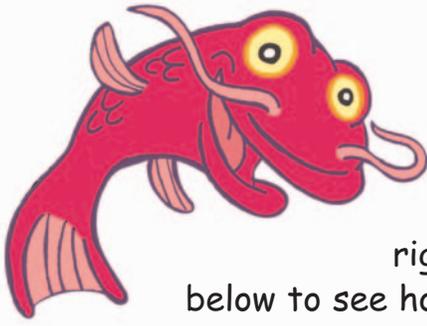
END

**WELCOME TO ROCKY'S RESTAURANT!!
WE SERVE THE FRESHEST SEAFOOD ANYWHERE!!!**

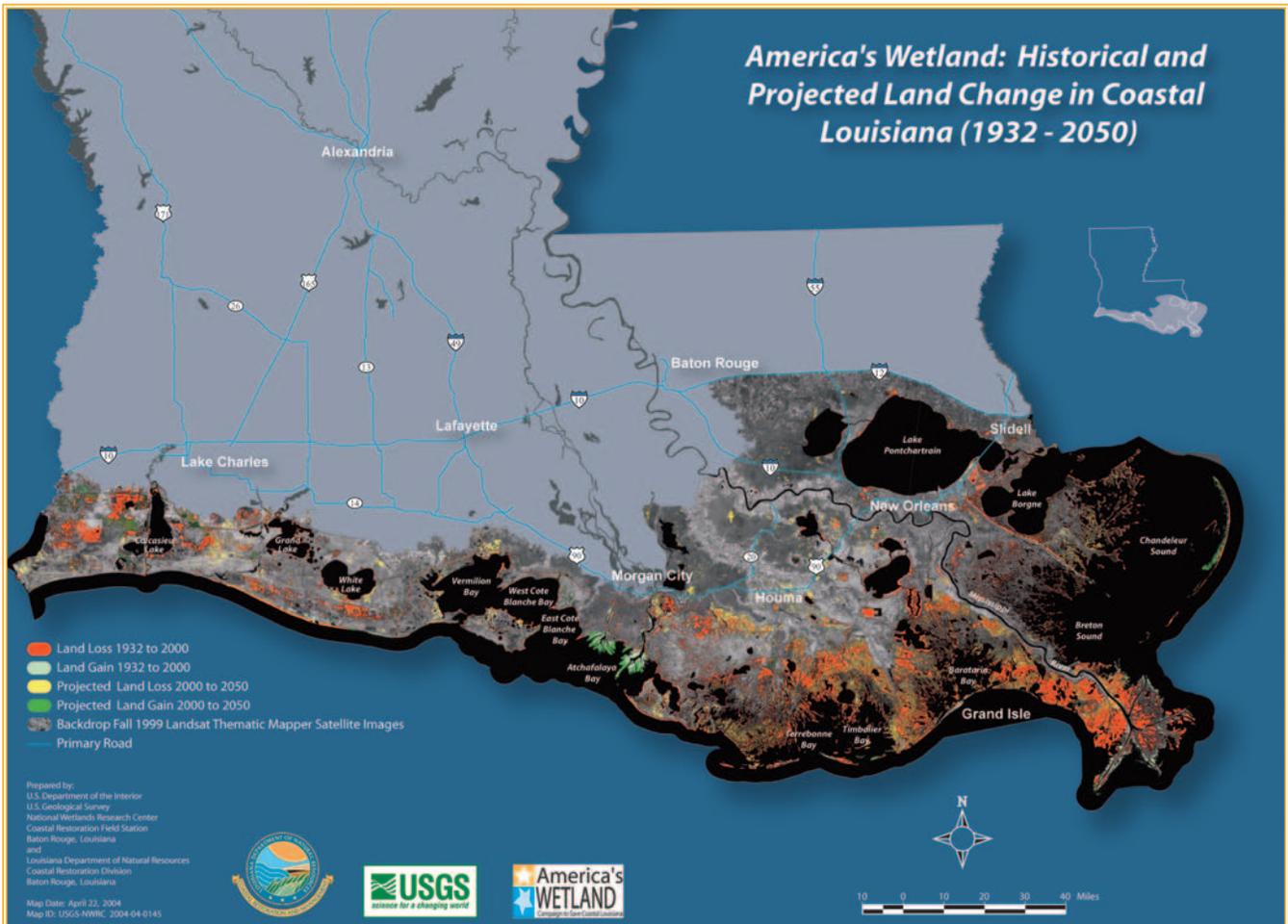
Hello! How are you? I'm terrific. My name is **Shelly**, and I speak for the starfish. There aren't very many of my kind left around here. But have you ever seen a Periwinkle snail? An oyster? How about a mussel? They live with me in the coastal zone. We play and grow here. I trust that you will continue to find ways to save my home and environment, won't you? You can start by circling the names of these organisms that live in America's WETLAND.



- | | | |
|--------------|----------|---------------|
| alligator | fish | people |
| crab | mosquito | phytoplankton |
| cypress tree | mussel | racoon |
| dragonfly | nutria | shrimp |
| eagle | oyster | snake |
| | pelican | |



Hi, I'm **Murky** the mudcat. No, I'm not a cat who lives in the mud. I'm a catfish that lives in America's WETLAND. Have you ever heard about my home? I sure hope so. Here in Louisiana, the land is vanishing right before our eyes. Check it out. Look at the map below to see how much land has disappeared since 1932. After you view the map, there are two questions for you to answer. Once you know the facts, you can teach other people about coastal Louisiana and its land loss.

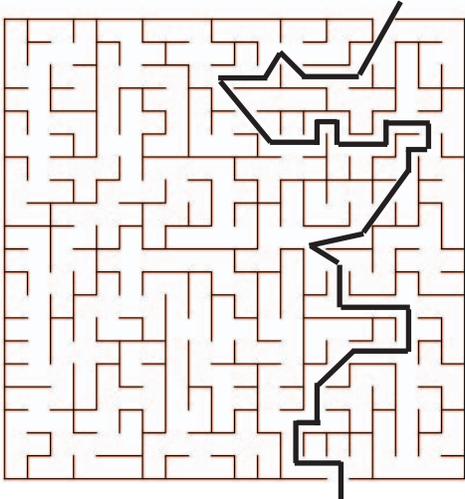


Visit www.LaCoast.gov and www.americaswetland.com to get help with these answers and to download a video of Louisiana's land loss over the past 100 years.

1. Since 1932 Louisiana has lost 1,900 square miles of coastal land, an area equal to the size of the state that starts with the letter D. Name the state.

2. Have you ever been on a football field? Louisiana is losing about a football field or acre of coastal land every 38 _____.

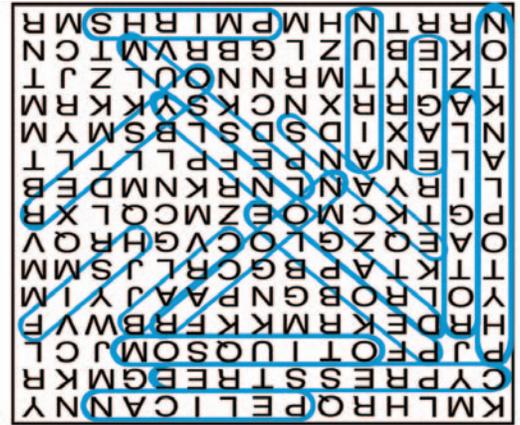
Hey kids! Are you having fun with the games and puzzles in this booklet? I hope you are. If you want to see how you're doing or if you need help with the answers, turn this page upside down for the **ANSWER KEY**.



Rocky's Maze

Kids, there's no right answer here, whatever you come up with will be really cool.

Murky's Answers
 1. Delaware
 2. Minutes

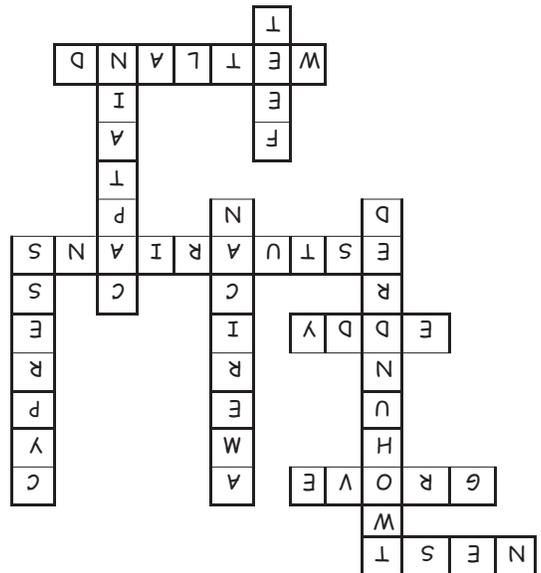


Shelly's Word Search

- 3 Letter Words: AIR, CAT, OAT, PET
- 4 Letter Words: BAIT, HERE, PEST, TEAR
- 5 Letter Words: CATCH, HORSE, ROAST, TEACH

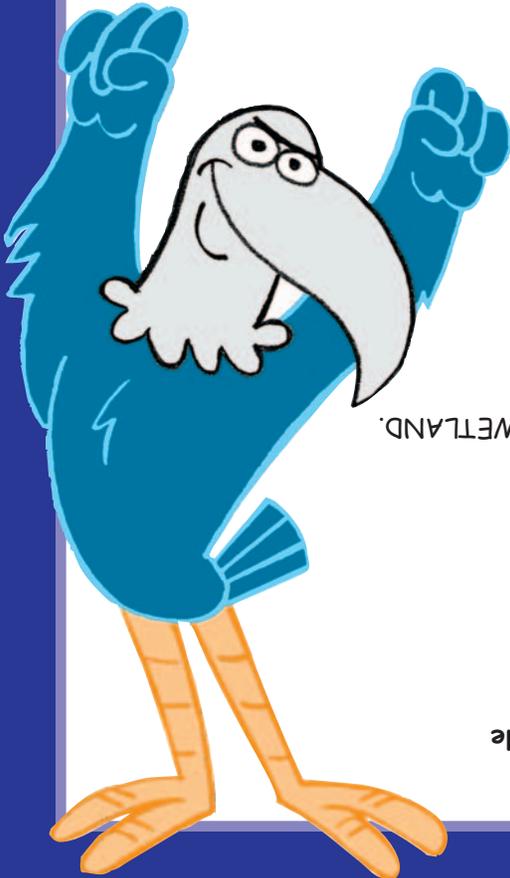
Here are just some of the many words that you can make, can you find even more? Can you make even longer words?

Reed's Word Builder



Captain Eddy's Crossword Puzzle

- Delta's Secret Code
1. Help save America's WETLAND.
 2. The Mississippi River carries sediment from thirty-one states.



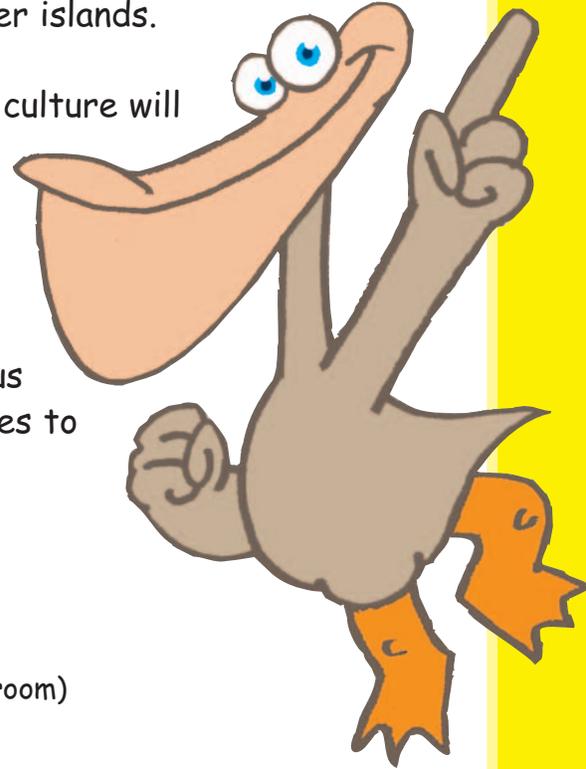
- Salty's Word Unscramble
1. life cycle
 2. detritus
 3. phytoplankton
 4. spawn
 5. saltwater
 6. estuary

Salty lives in America's WETLAND.

Mossy's Draw a Cartoon

Bon jour, mes ami! My name is **Pierre** the pelican. I live on the barrier islands of America's WETLAND. These islands really are "barriers" that protect America's WETLAND against hurricane winds and tidal surges. The islands were once much larger than they are now, with fishing camps, cattle, and even a hotel. But hurricanes wiped out the buildings and caused land loss. Now, the people are gone, but I'm still here, and I get to see first-hand how coastal restoration projects rebuild barrier islands.

With the barrier islands being restored, our unique culture will be preserved. Our heritage includes fishing and hunting, cooking and community, a unique style of music, and a wonderful blend of people whose roots are from many countries. You can learn many things on the World Wide Web about the wetland, the barrier islands, and our culture. I trust you'll help us save our islands and our culture! Visit these websites to learn more:



www.americaswetland.com
www.LaCoast.gov
www.btneq.org
www.marshmission.com

(Find Education)
(Find Kids' Corner)
(Find Birds)
(Find Coastal Classroom)

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Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

Map provided by U.S. Geological Survey and the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources.

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To learn more about Louisiana's coastal land loss, visit the following websites:

www.americaswetland.com
www.LaCoast.gov

Contact the campaign:

America's WETLAND

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