Coastal Louisiana

Activity Book

Coastal Louisiana: Did you know?

- The Louisiana coastal plain remains the largest expanse of coastal wetlands in the contiguous United States.

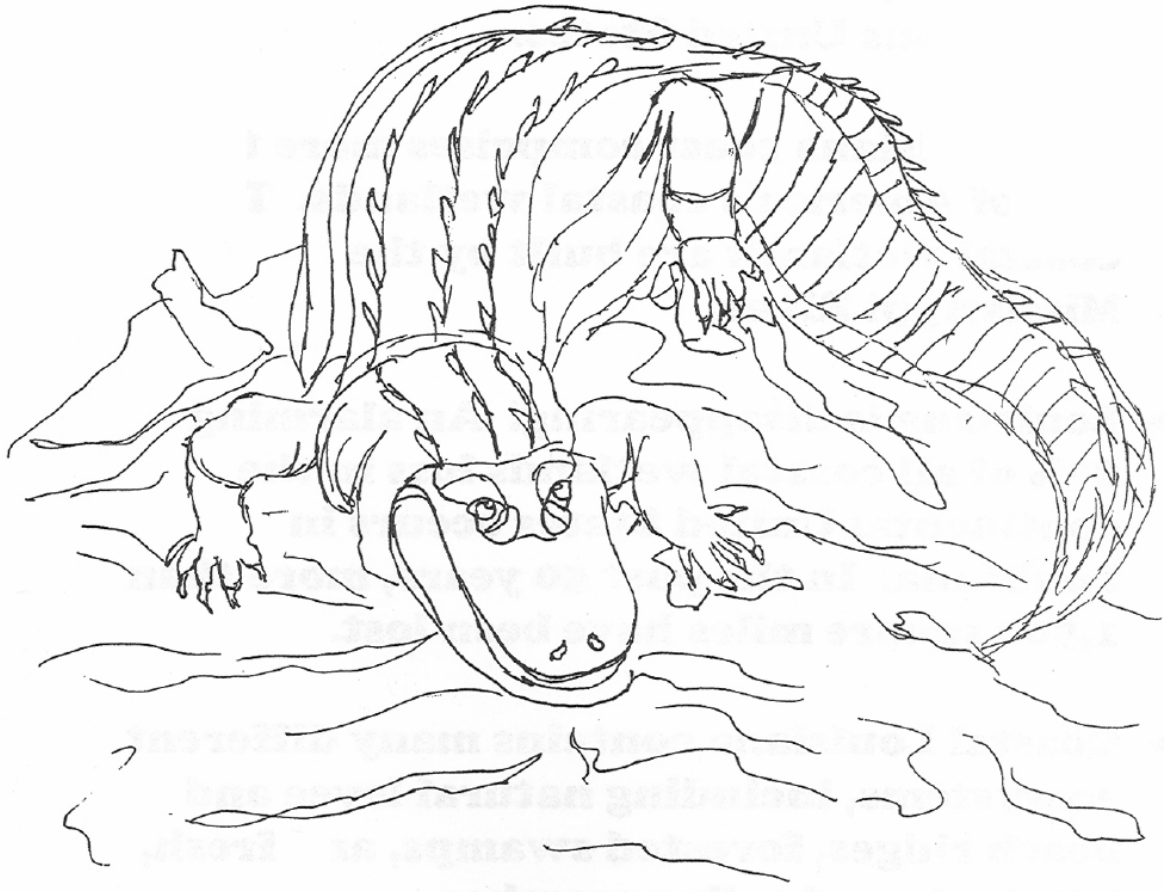
- The Louisiana coast comprises more than 40% of America's coastal wetlands. These coastal wetlands are built by the Mississippi River.

- Louisiana is disappearing! An alarming 80% of all coastal wetlands loss in the continental United States occurs in Louisiana. In the past 50 years, more than 1,500 square miles have been lost.

- Coastal Louisiana contains many different ecosystems, including natural levee and beach ridges, forested swamps, and fresh, brackish, and saline marshes.

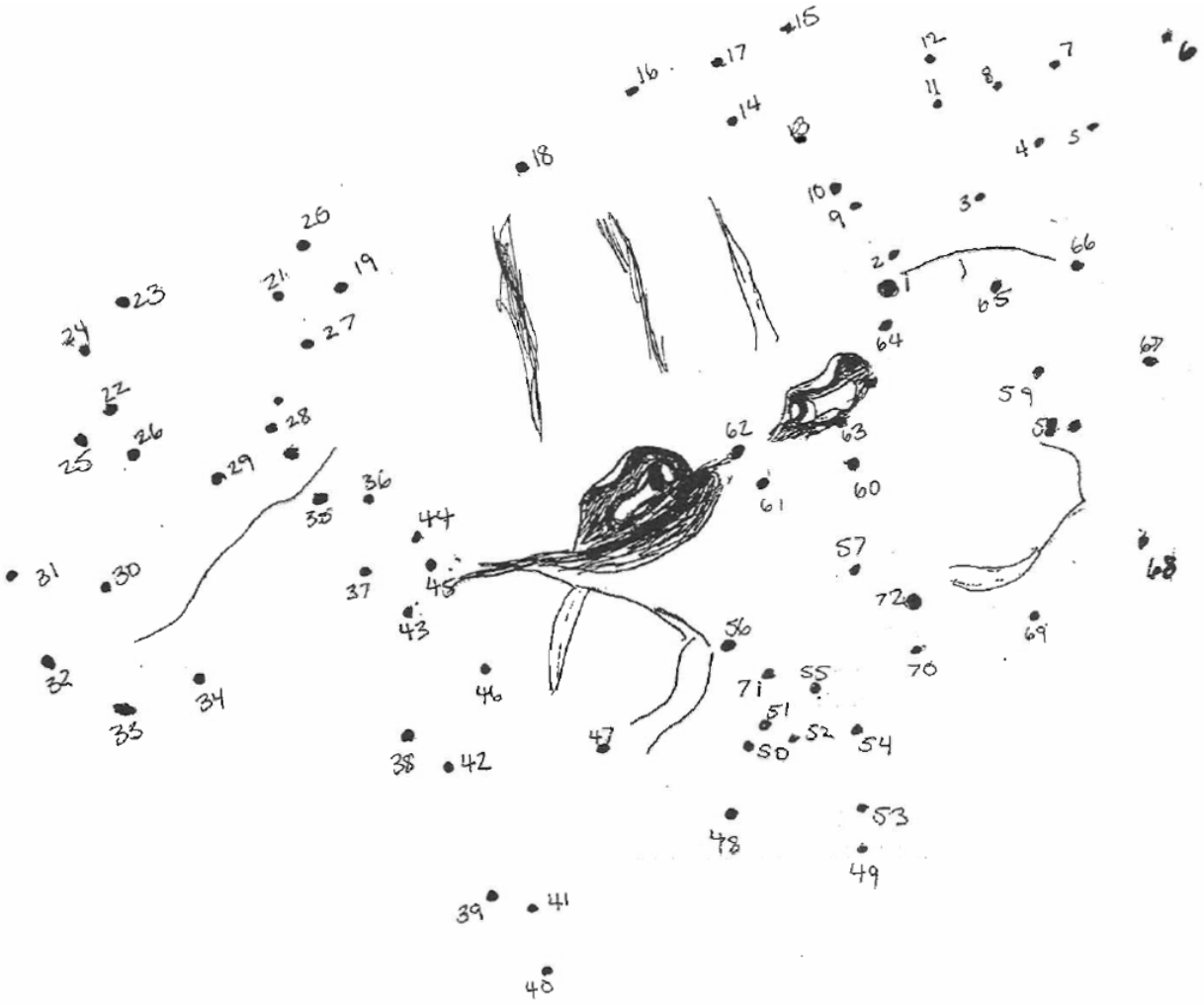
- The coastal wetlands protect an internationally significant commercial-industrial complex from the damaging forces of storm driven waves and tides. This complex includes deep draft ports that handle the Nation's waterborne commerce and the most active segment of the Nation's Intracoastal Waterway.

COLOR ME!



The American alligator is different from its often mistaken counterpart, the crocodile, because it has a round snout and no salt-removing glands. A female alligator will guard her nest until her babies are born and even help them hatch. The nest temperature determines the sex of the hatchlings. Higher temperatures create males (>93°F), lower temps create females (<86°F), and middle temperatures create both.

Connect the Dots:
Find a Common Louisiana Animal



COLOR ME!

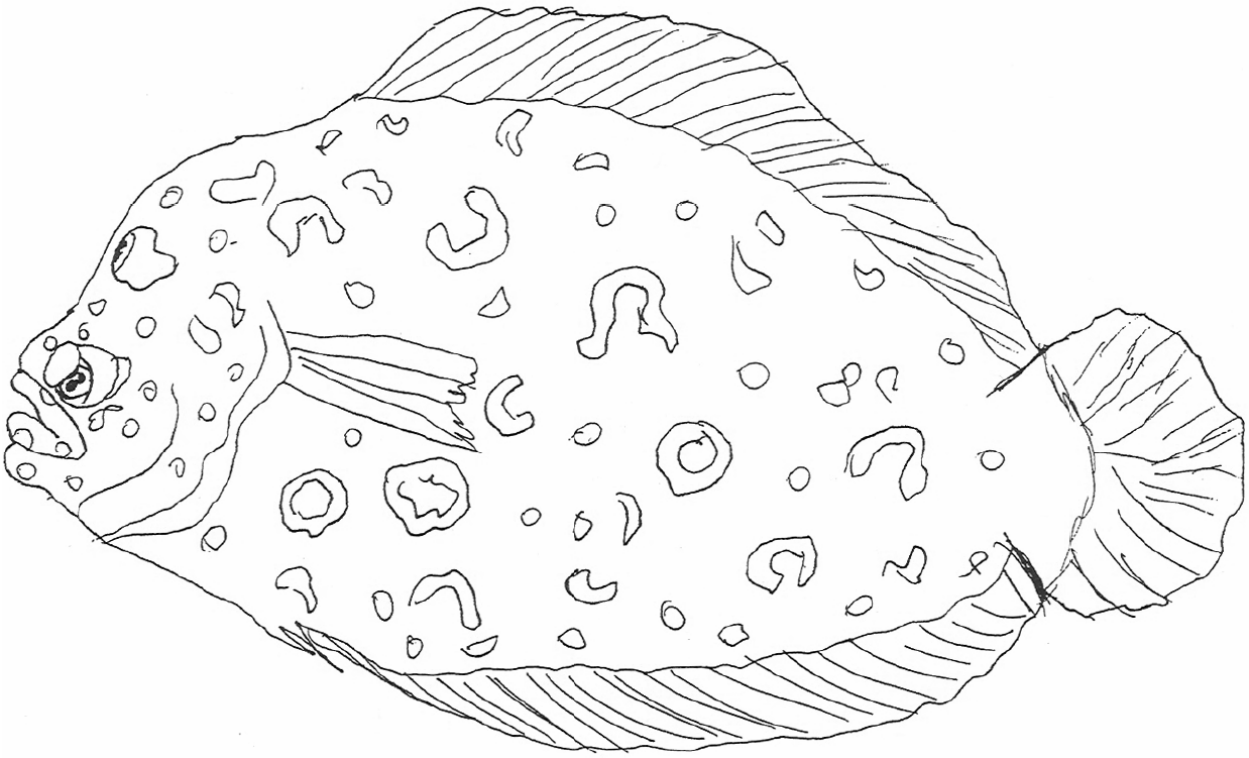
Fourteen species of dolphin are commonly found in the Gulf of Mexico including bottlenose dolphins. Bottlenose dolphins can be seen year round off the coast of Louisiana and some even come inshore into the bays and rivers.

Can you find these coastal Louisiana words?

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

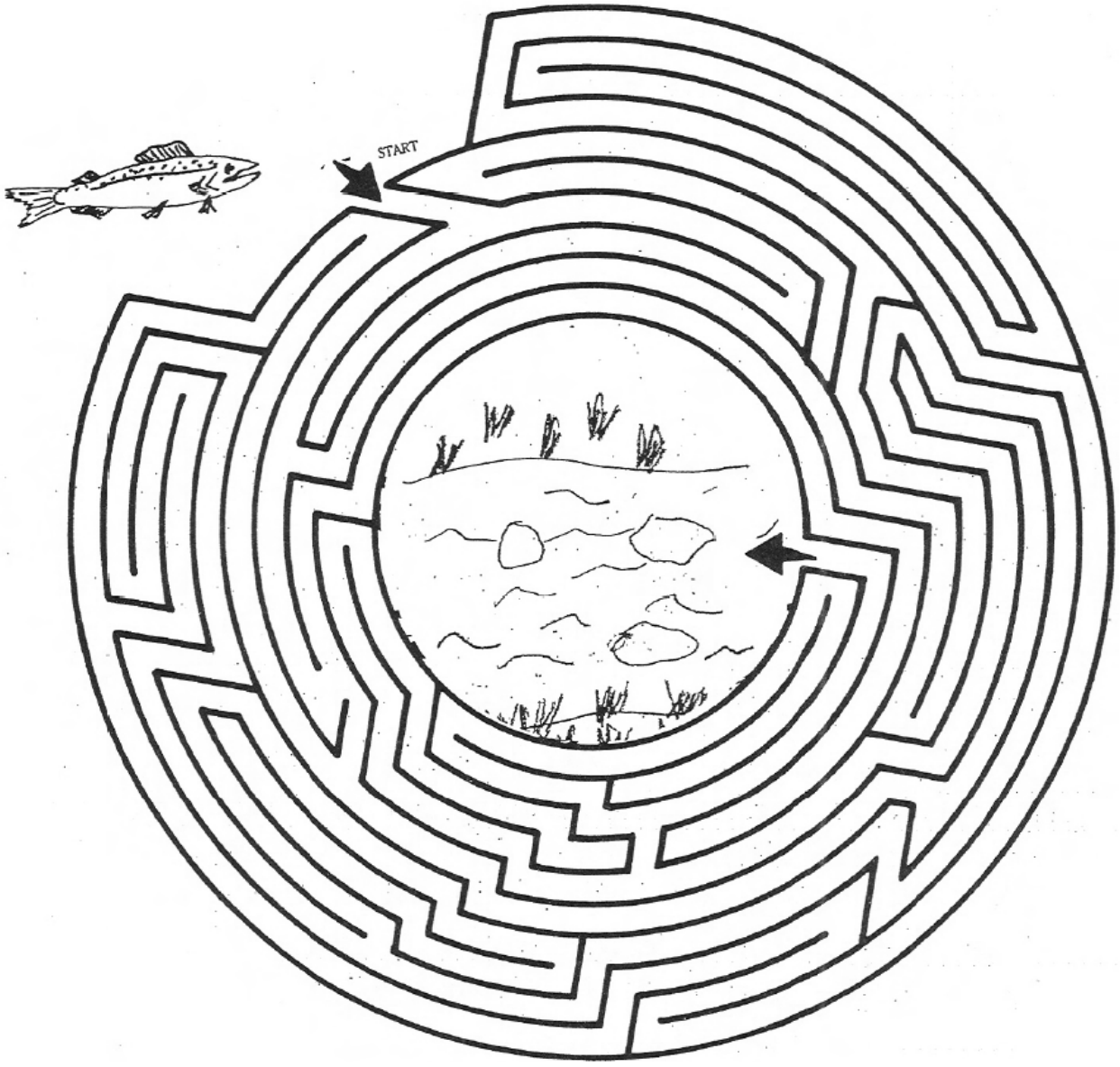
Menhaden
Coast
Ocean
Bass
Oysters
Barrier Islands
Hurricane
New Orleans
Cajun
Levee
Delta
Salt Marsh
Invasives
Ibis
Pollution
Wave
Erosion
Crawfish
Heron

COLOR ME!



Flounder begin life like other fish – upright, with eyes on opposite sides of the head. Gradually, they begin listing to one side, and one eye migrates to the “top” side. They spend the rest of their lives sideways, swimming and lying flat on the bottom.

Can you help the menhaden find safety before the hurricane comes?



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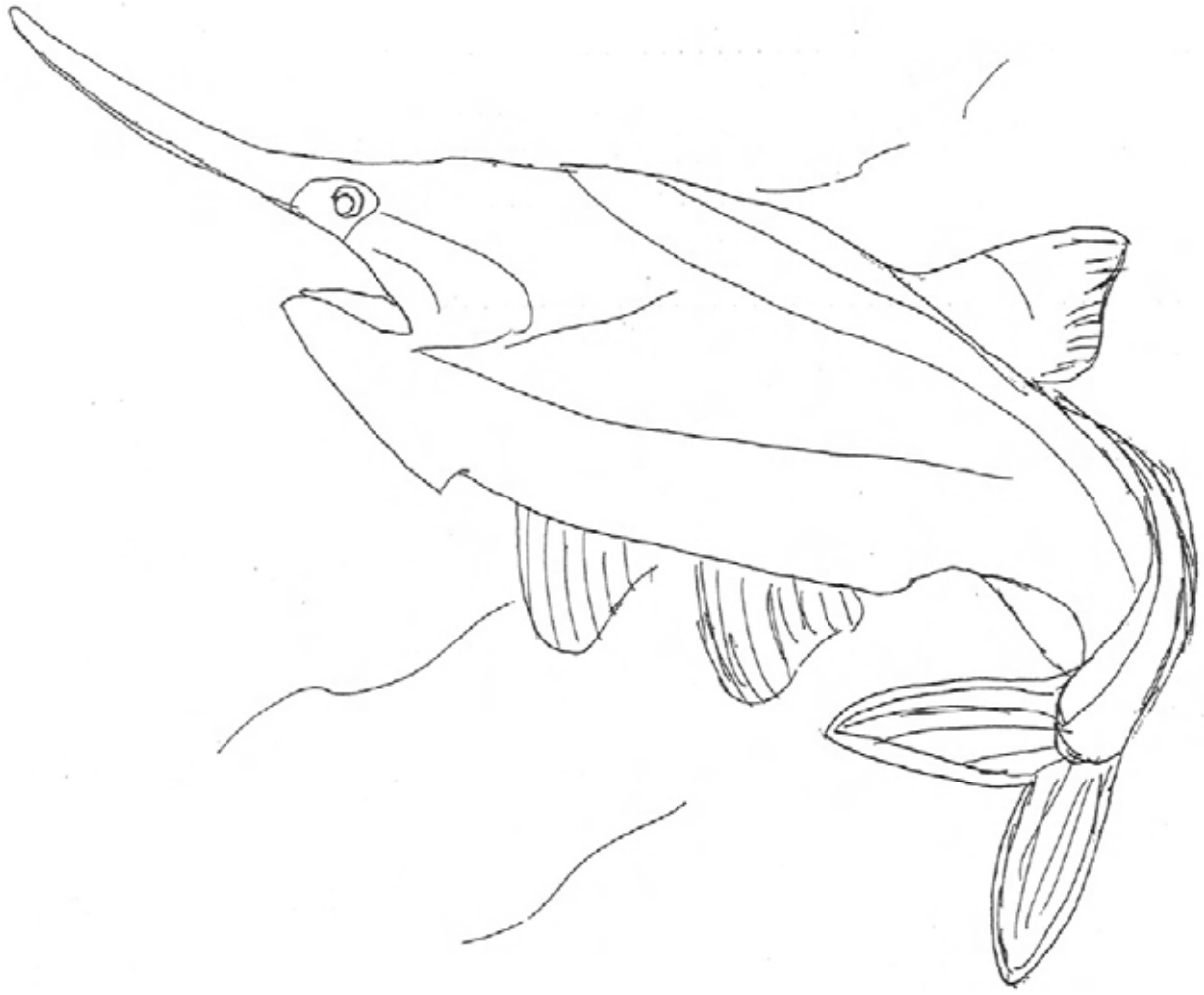
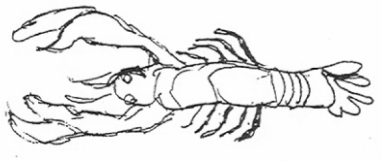


Like a plankton net, the paddlefish's large mouth with fine strains filters small crustaceans, algae, bug larvae, and mayflies. Damming of large rivers has eliminated much of the paddlefish's spawning habitat by controlling spring flooding and keeping water within its banks. That is why this fish is considered to be threatened.

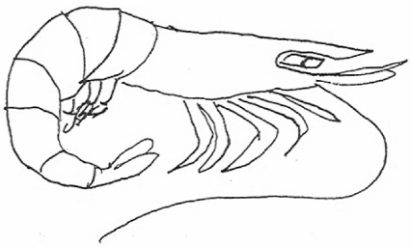
Can you match these animals with their Cajun French name?

Cocodrie



Chevrette

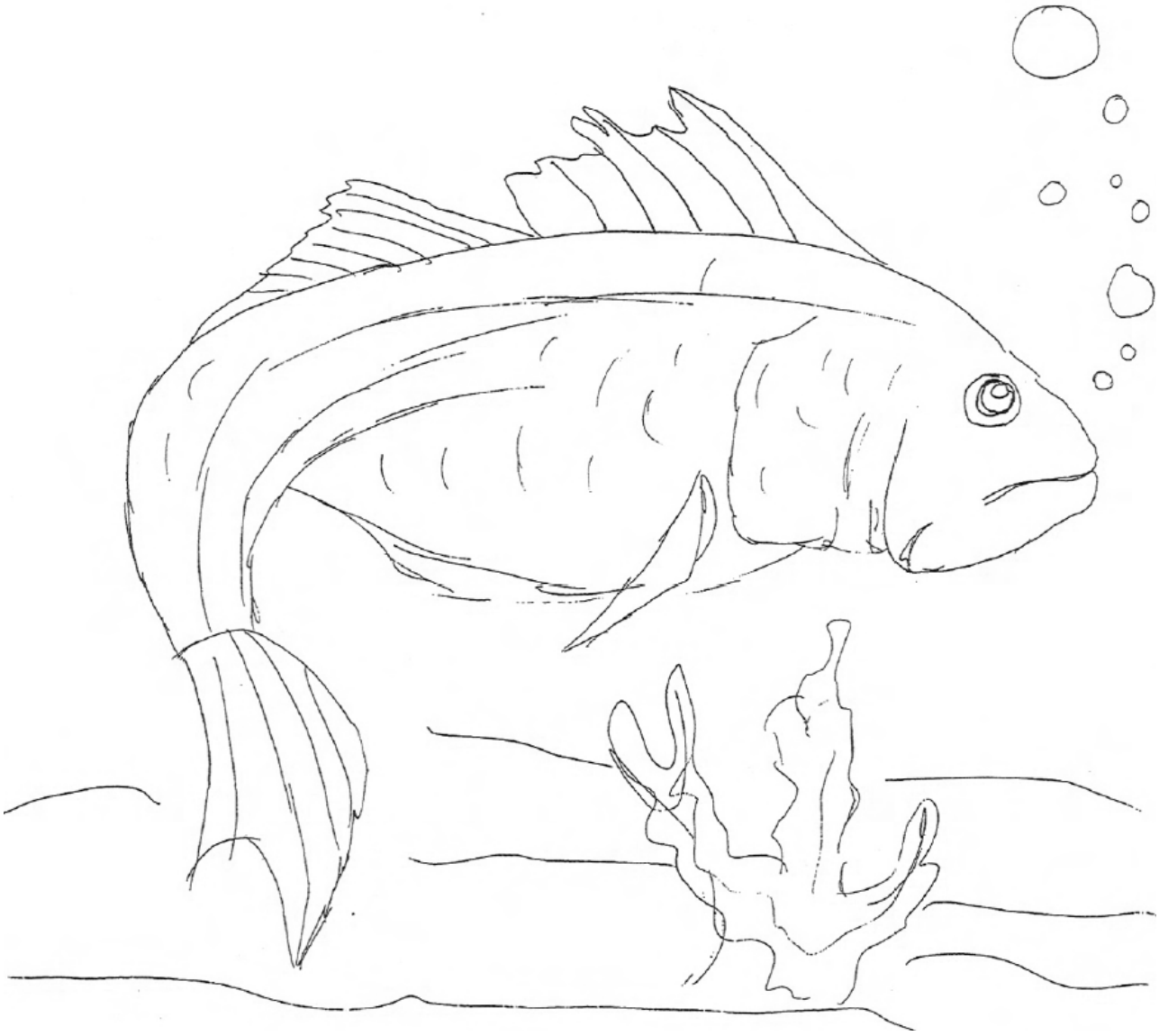
Poisson



Crabe

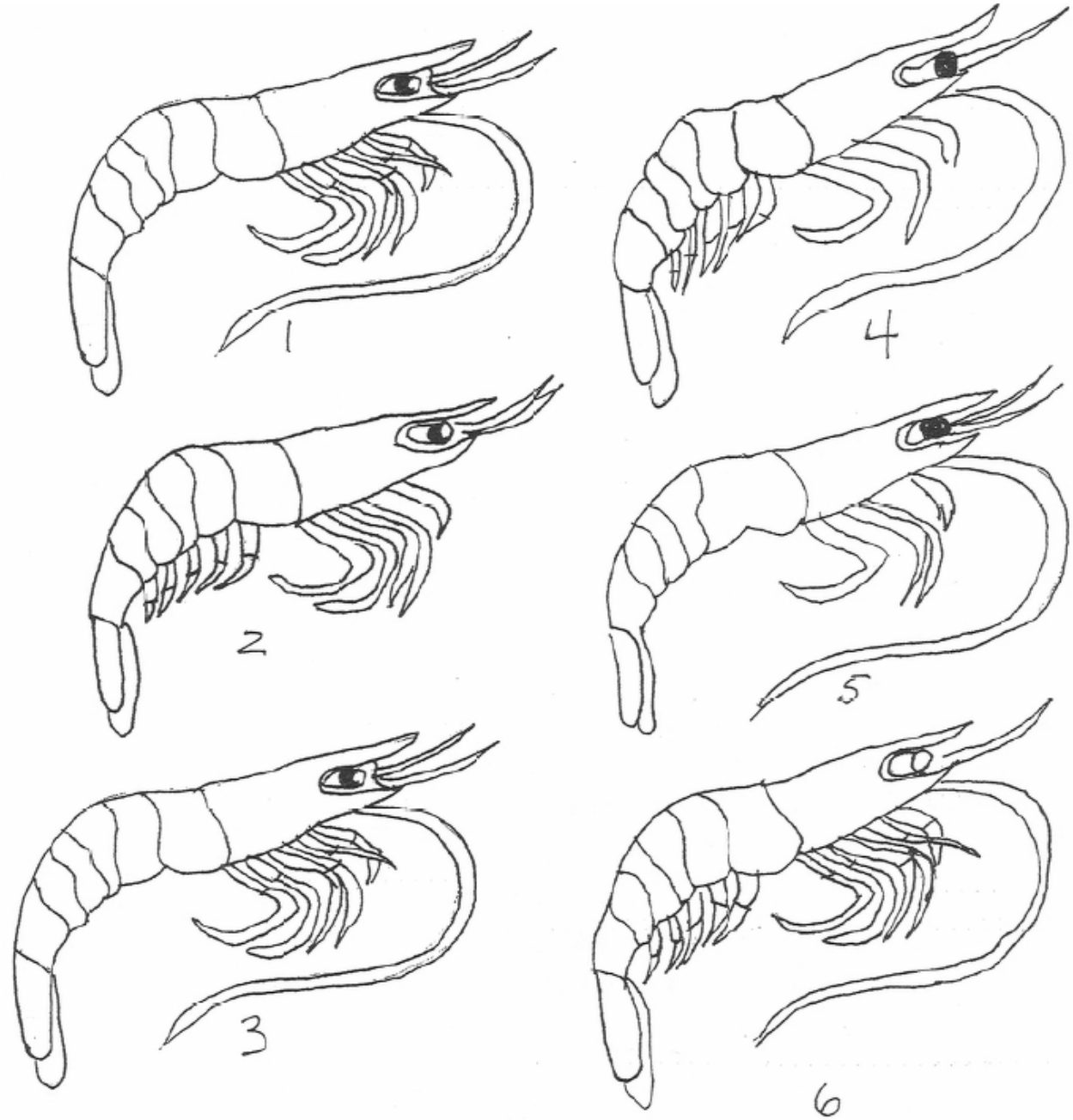
Écrevisse

COLOR ME!



Redfish usually travel in small schools of 3-4 fish. A female redfish can produce up to 500,000 eggs annually, but only 20 to 30% of these will survive. The eggs hatch after one to two days. Did you know that the largest redfish ever caught weighed 94 pounds, 2 ounces?

WHICH TWO ARE THE SAME?



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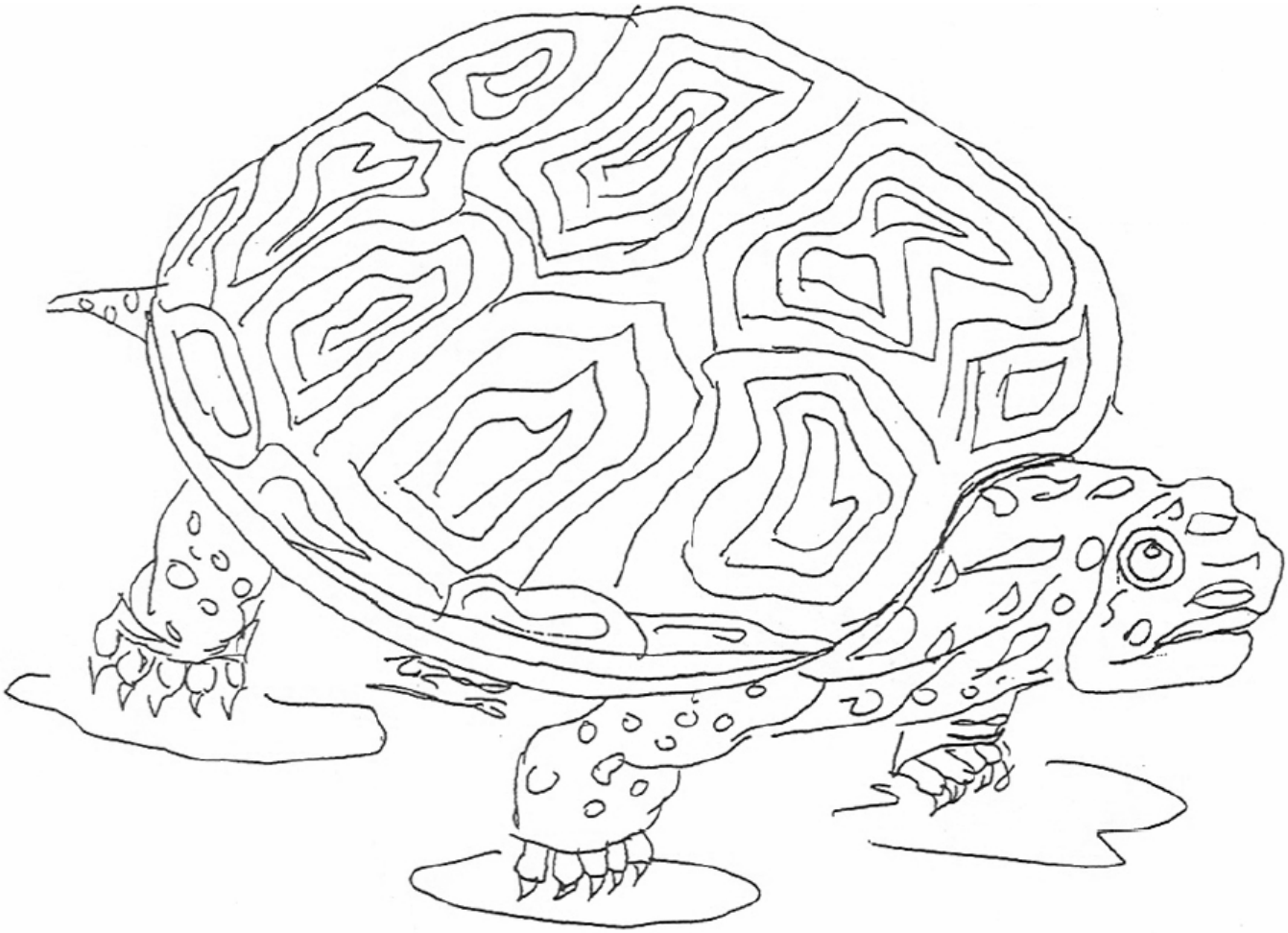
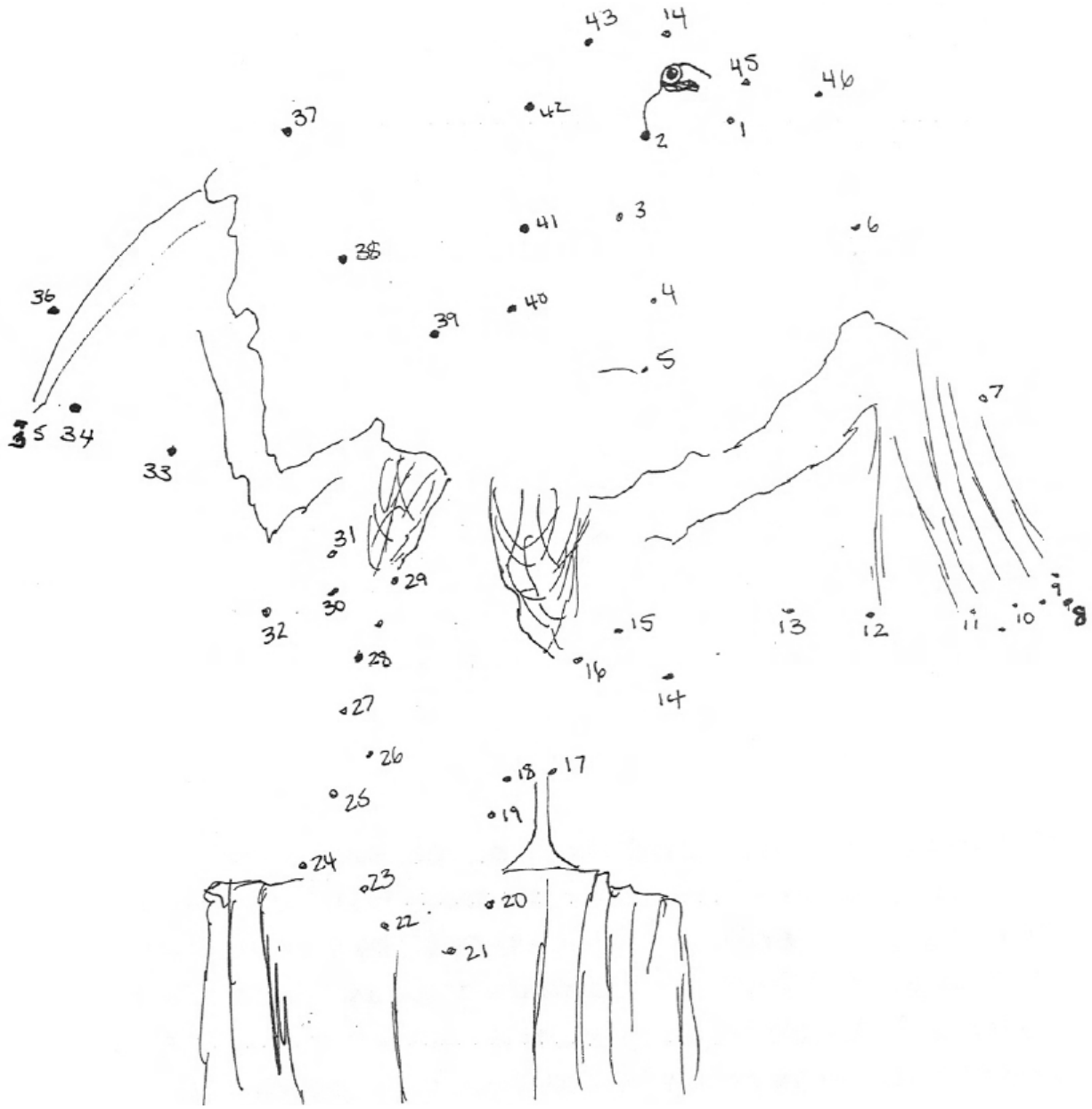


This turtle is named for the diamond patterns on its top shell. It is believed to be the only turtle in the world that lives exclusively in *brackish-water* areas! In these areas, such as tidal marshes, estuaries, and lagoons, the water contains some salt, but it is not as salty as the ocean. The diamondback terrapin's shell is covered with scales or plates called *scutes* that bear deep, diamond-shaped growth rings. These form a pattern that is unique to each turtle, just like your fingerprint!

Connect the Dots to Find a Double-Crested Cormorant



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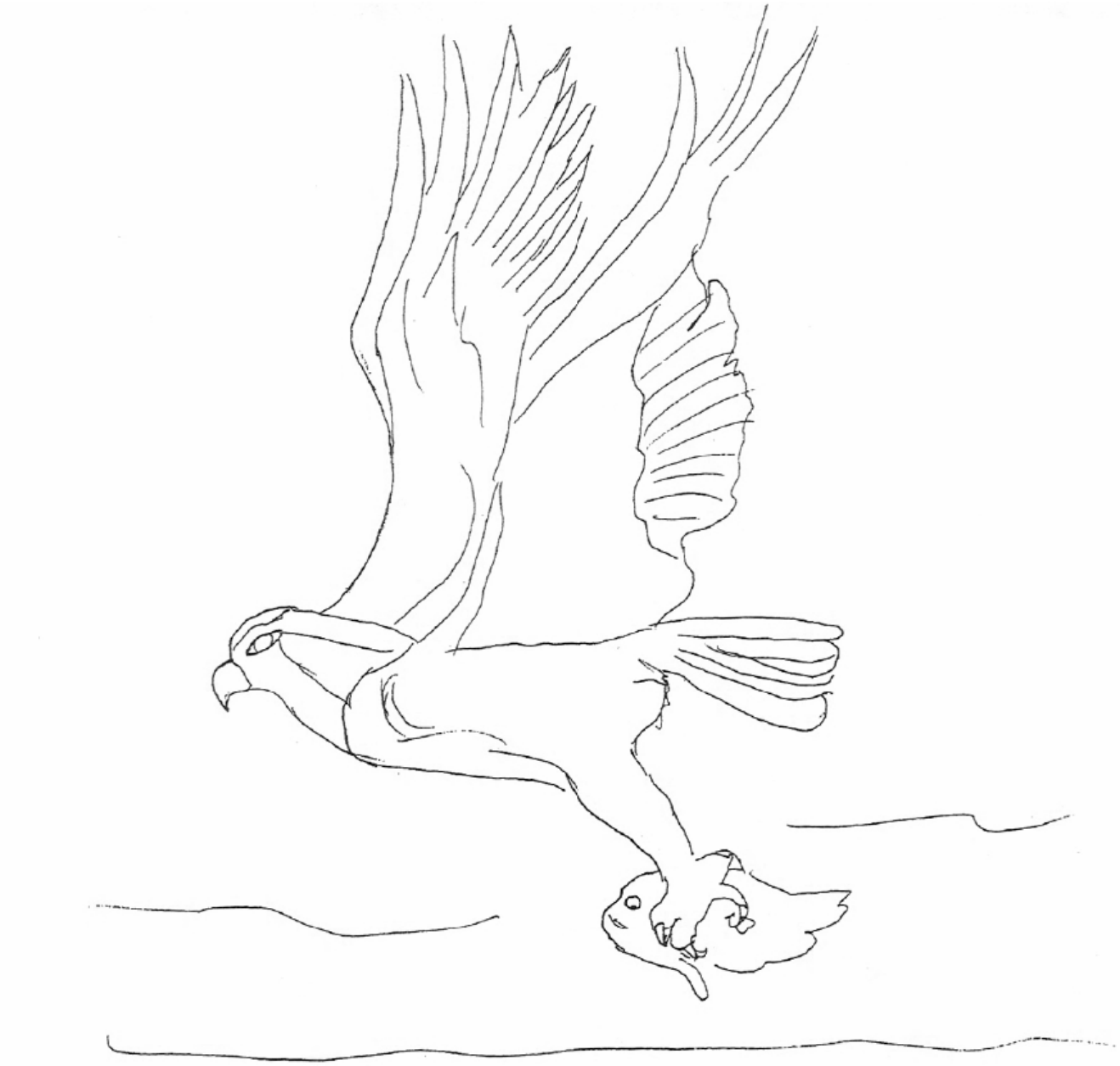


Ospreys love fish and they catch them by hovering over the water at an altitude of 50 to 200 feet, then diving feet-first into the water. The osprey's feet are uniquely adapted to "air fishing." Each osprey's foot has a reversible front toe, as well as barbs (called spicules), which help it hold onto a slippery fish in flight.

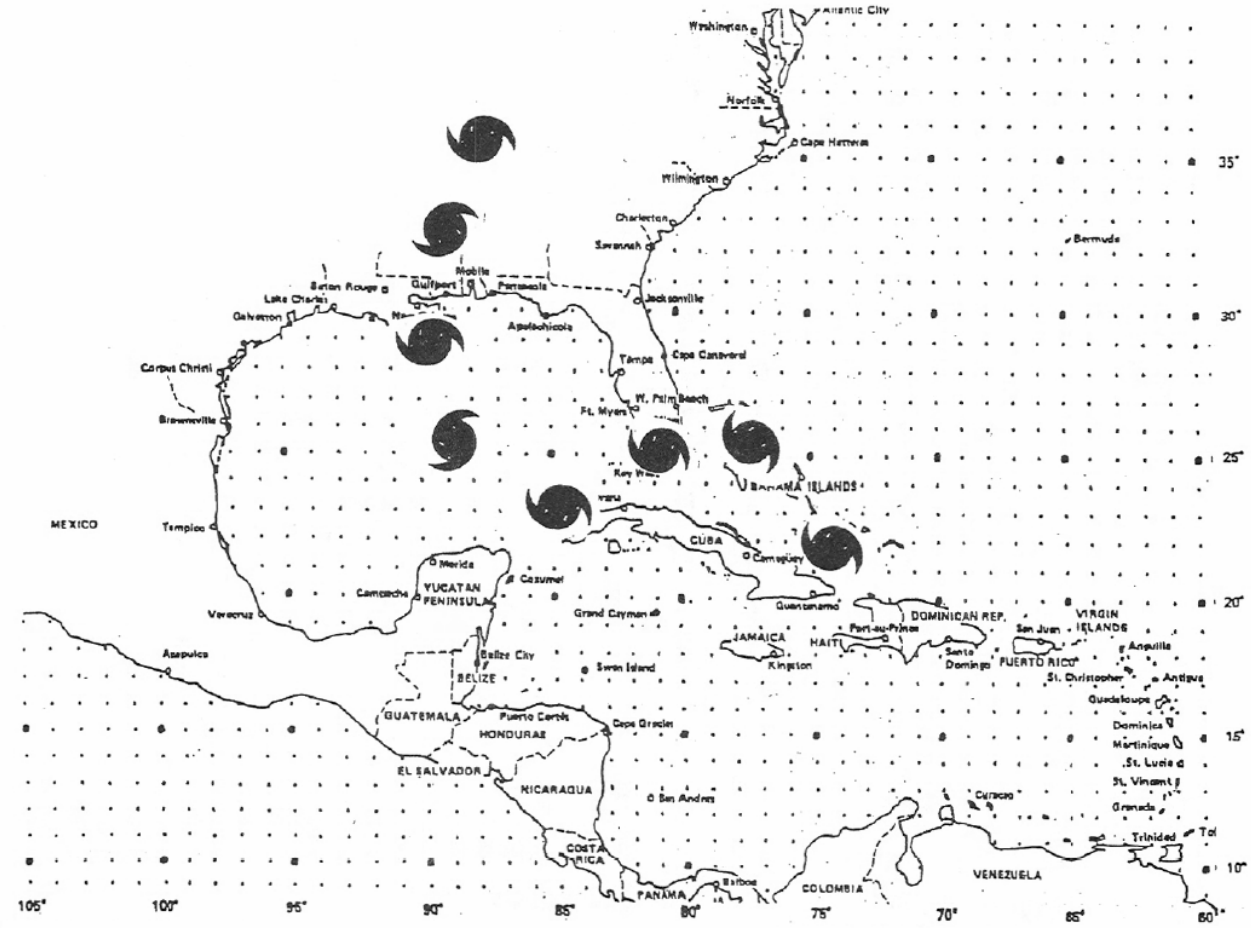
Can You Find These Endangered and Threatened Species Words?

Words can be found down, across, and diagonally.

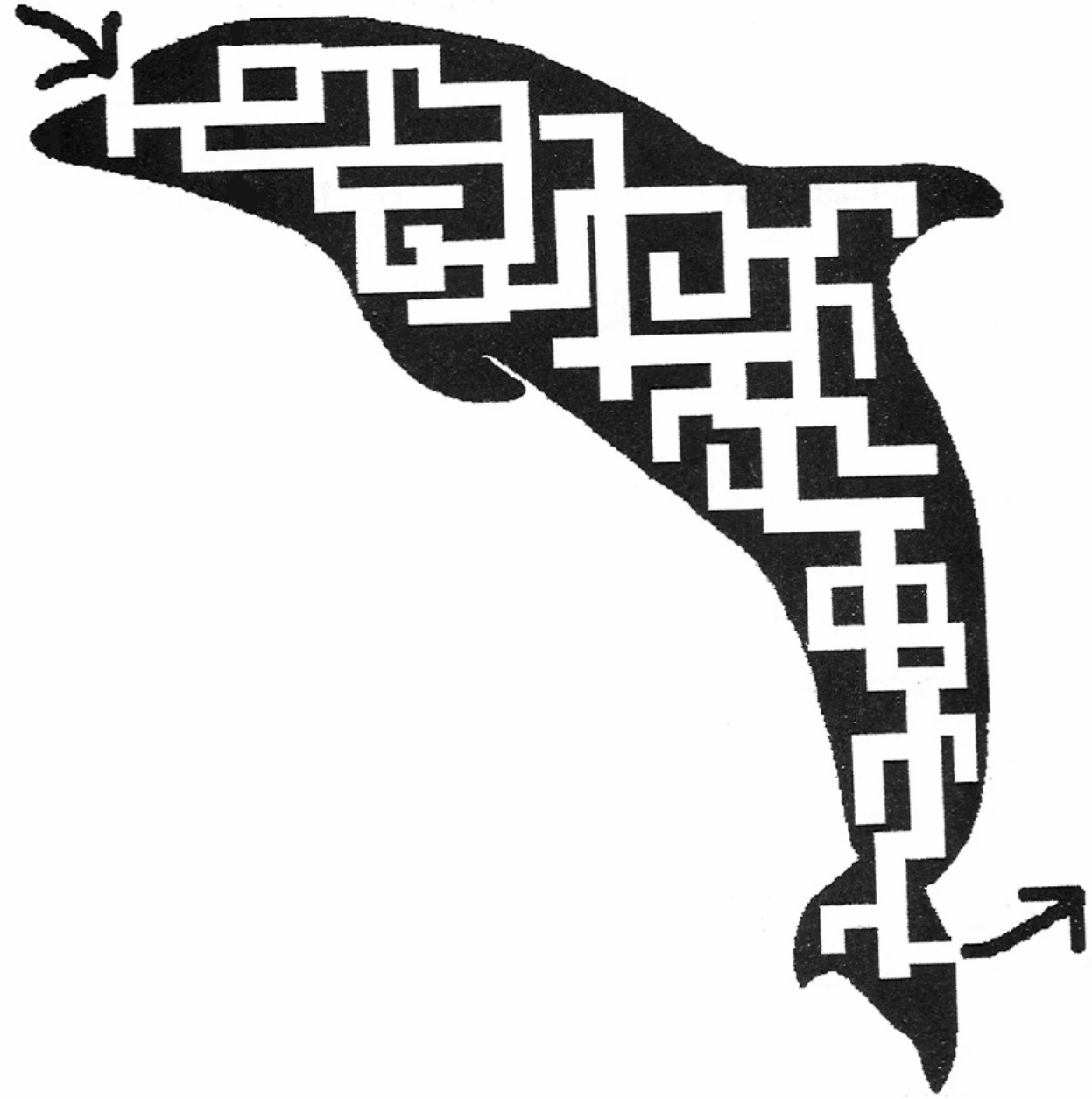
B	R	O	W	N	P	E	L	I	C	A	N	A	H	H
E	C	F	D	E	O	A	F	G	A	L	H	E	U	G
H	A	E	I	S	N	B	P	W	H	A	L	E	M	E
A	A	G	P	N	D	S	L	Q	E	E	P	A	P	Q
W	M	A	L	C	B	E	E	A	A	W	A	O	B	U
K	U	M	O	E	E	A	E	L	C	F	B	K	A	I
S	C	T	V	G	R	T	C	N	A	K	R	J	C	L
B	K	A	E	S	R	U	R	K	S	R	B	V	K	L
I	E	T	R	U	Y	R	C	A	B	T	T	E	E	W
L	T	O	R	T	O	I	S	E	N	M	A	N	A	O
L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

Brown Pelican
Pondberry
Gulf Sturgeon
Hawksbill
Sea Turtle
Quillwort
Mucket
Finback
Whale
Eagle
Manatee
Blackbear
Vireo
Plover
Tortoise
Humpback
Pearlshell

In August 2005 Hurricane Katrina came across Florida and slammed into the Gulf States, causing terrible damage to the coastal areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Connect the hurricane symbols to plot the track of Katrina.



Can you navigate this dolphin maze?

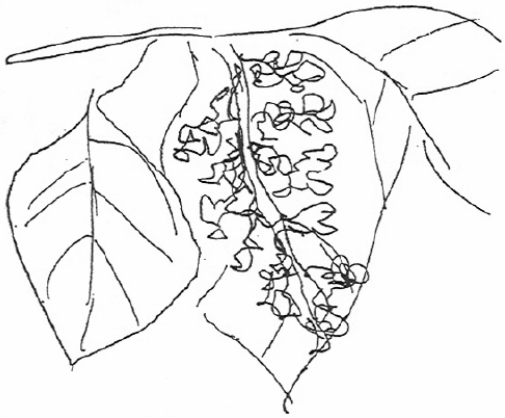


Which Animals and Plants Do Not Belong? Circle the invasive.

a. Water Hyacinth

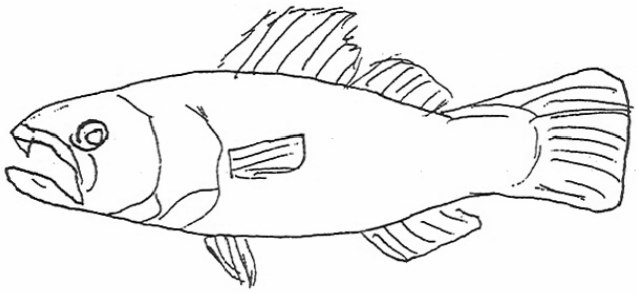
d. Nutria

b. Bald Cypress



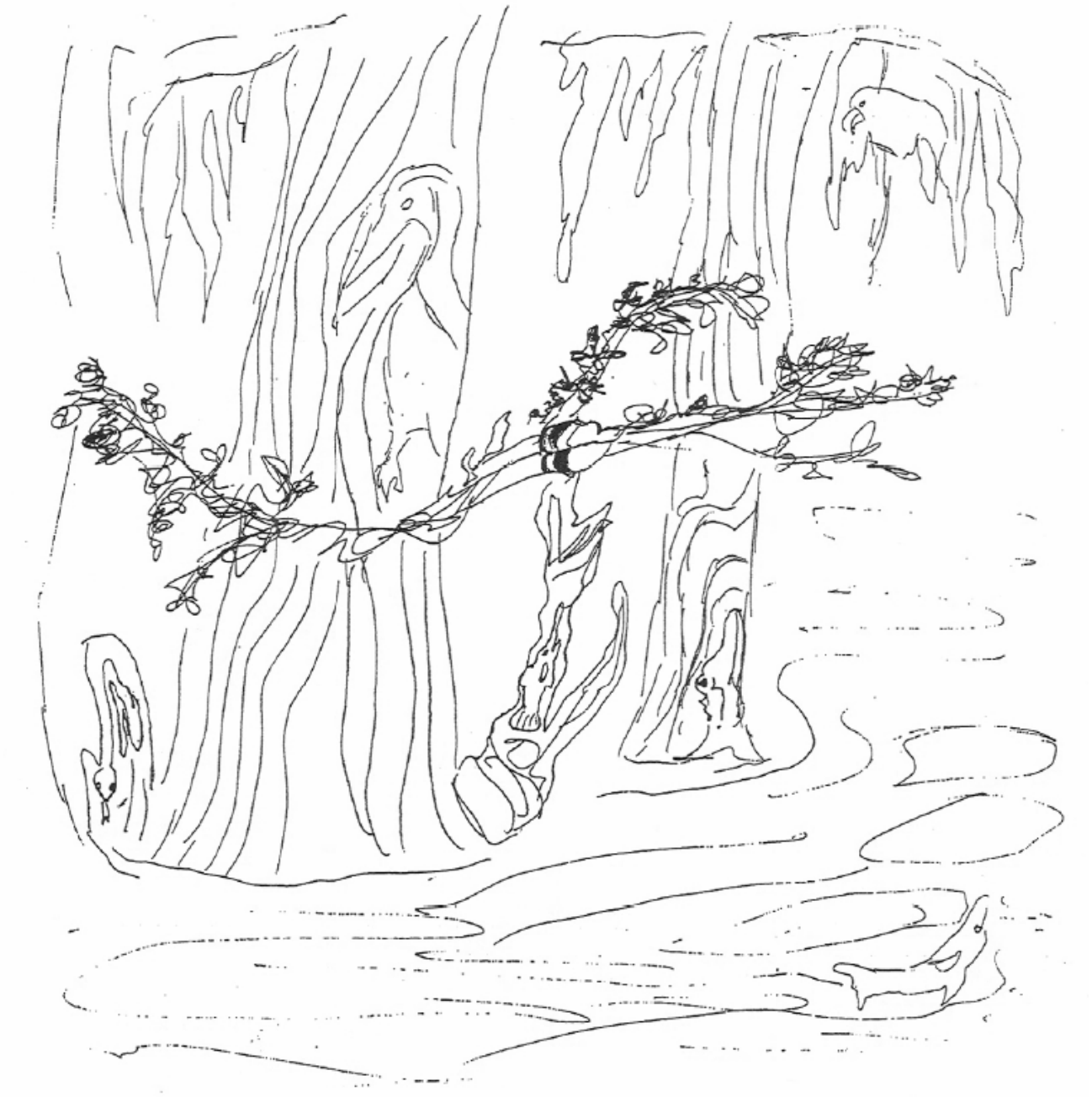
e. Chinese Tallow Tree

c. Oystergrass



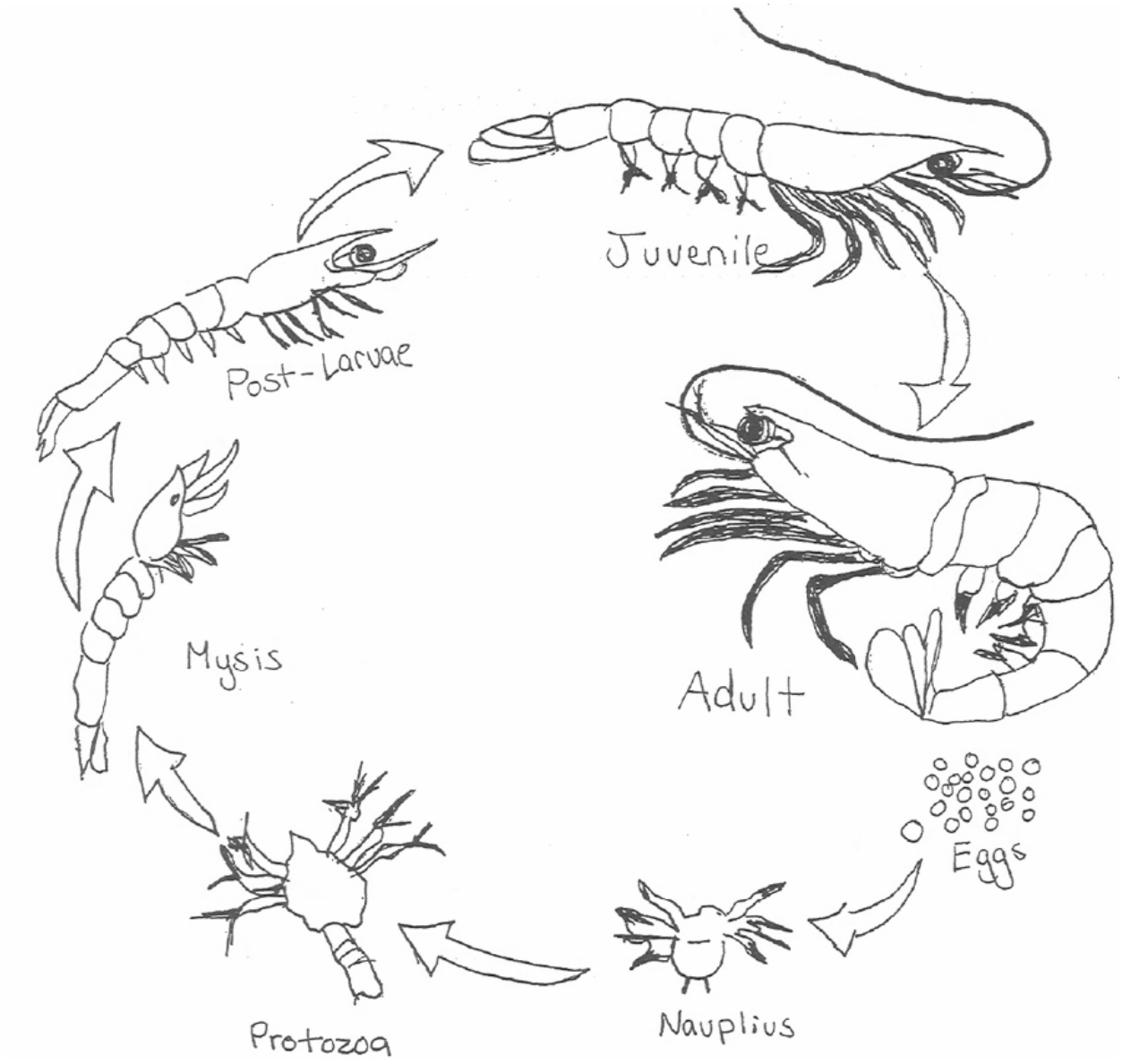
f. Sea Trout

Can you find the seven animals hidden in this Louisiana Bayou?



There is an oyster, an alligator head, an osprey, a pelican, a dolphin, a paddlefish, and a snake.

Shrimp Life Cycle



Did you know that a single female shrimp can release 100,000 to 1,000,000 eggs? Once hatched, the young shrimp develop through several larval stages in bay nurseries. When the shrimp reach juvenile and sub-adult stages they usually migrate to the Gulf of Mexico where most stay for the rest of their lives.

Marine Debris

Draw a line from the type of debris (trash) to the time it takes to decompose (go away) in the marine environment.

plastic bottle

200 years

apple core

400 years

1 million years

plastic 6-pack rings

450 years

waxed milk carton

3 months

aluminum cans

2 months

glass bottles & jars

Color Me!

The beaches, rocky shores, marshes, coastal and open oceans are homes to many different plants and animals. Be polite and do not mess up their homes. Take your trash back to your home, just leave footprints in theirs.

Answers

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

Cocodrie: Alligator
Chevrette: Shrimp
Poisson: Fish
Crabe: Crab
Écrevisse: Crawfish

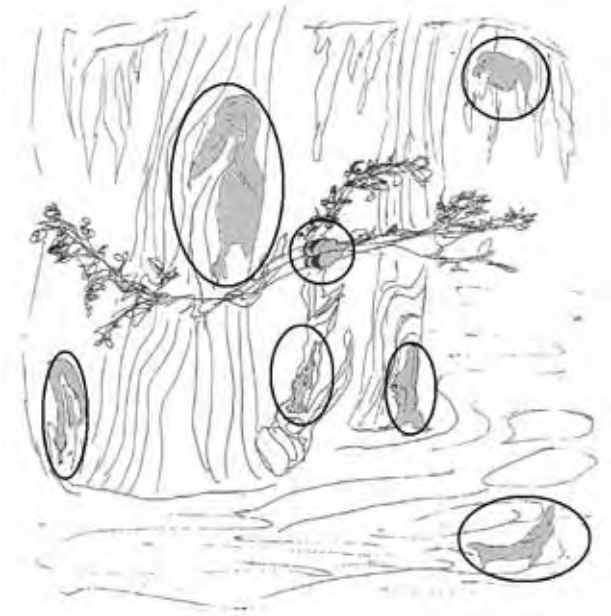
More Answers

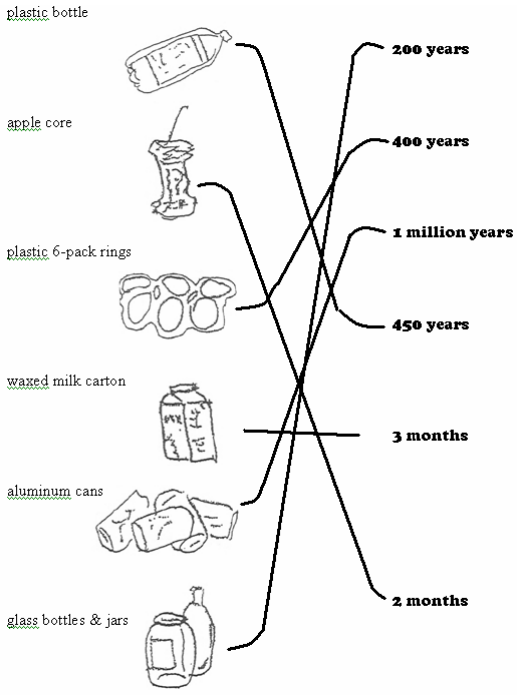
1 and 3 are the same shrimp.

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

A, D, and E are the invasive species.

And More Answers





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