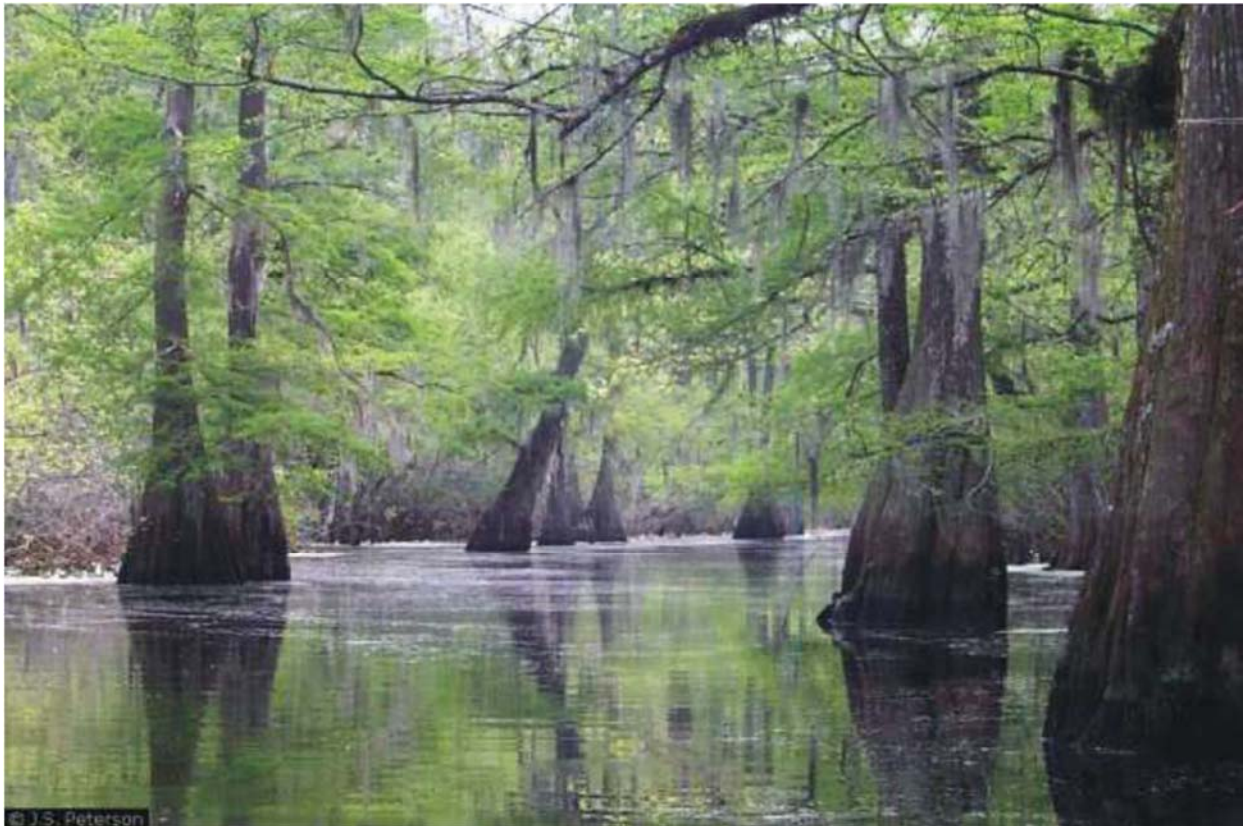


Cypress Wetlands

Activity Book

*Exploring Wildlife Habitats of
the Port Royal Cypress Wetlands*



Learn how to be a Habitat Hero!
by Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District

*This activity booklet was made possible by a
Youth Environmental Education grant from the
Lowcountry Resource Conservation & Development (RC & D)*

Habitat Heroes want to learn about conservation.

Conservation is protecting and preserving our natural resources.

A natural resource is something from nature that we can use.

A natural resource can be water, air, an animal, a plant, soil, a rock, or oil and gas from under the ground.

This fun activity book can teach you
about the animals and plants in the wetlands.
See how you can be a Habitat Hero and
start protecting our natural resources!

Table of Contents

3- Wetlands provide:	14 - Plants
4- Point & Nonpoint Source Pollution	15 - Important words to match
5- Habitat Heroes—about dogs	16- Wetlands crossword puzzle
6- Habitat Heroes Litter & Alligators	17- Wetlands word search
7- Cypress Trees	18- Secret Ecosystem Code
8- Habitat Heroes—trail etiquette	19- Critter Scramble
9- Home for many plants & animals	20- Stormwater Maze
10- Egrets & Herons	21 - Dot to Dot Wetlands
11- Ibis & Wood Storks	22 - Glossary
12-Raptors	23- Webpage links & answer page
13-Song Birds	24- Back Cover- Port Royal Map & Credits

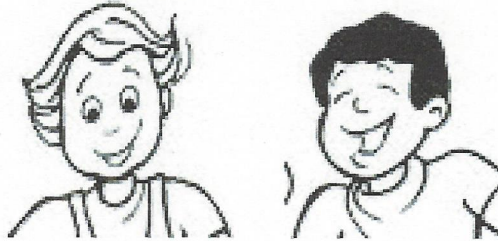
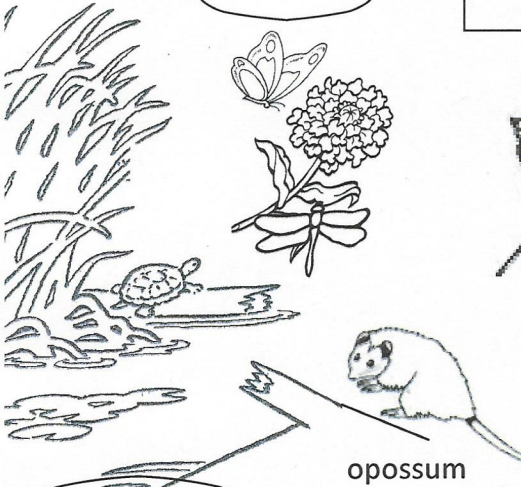
Our Wonderful Wetlands

Provide:

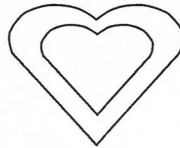
animal & plant
habitats

a great place for people to
hike, bird watch, fish,
crab, or just relax

a place for birds
to nest called a
rookery



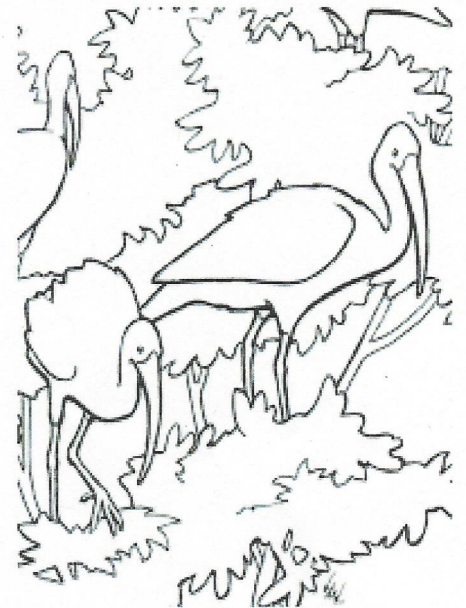
Habitat Heroes



Wetlands!

a nursery for
saltwater fish, shrimp
and other
marine animals

a place for our
stormwater to go
Wetlands soak it up!



Both estuaries
and fresh water
swamps help
filter non-point
source pollution
that rainwater
washes from our
homes and roads.



Point or Nonpoint Source Pollution?



Point source pollution can be "pointed" to or is known to come from a factory or industry.



Everyone lives in a watershed. Rain flows or "sheds" over our streets, yards, driveways, and roofs. This is called stormwater.



Nonpoint source pollution cannot be "pointed" to and comes from many sources in our community. Everyone contributes to nonpoint source pollution.

Stormwater carries nonpoint source pollutants like:

- ♦ soaps and cleaners from washing our cars. Wash cars on the grass so cleaners soak into the ground, not into our waterways.
- ♦ oils and fluids from our cars. Fix oil leaks and recycle old oil.



- ♦ fertilizers and pesticides for growing greener lawns and killing pests. Read directions carefully to prevent these chemicals from washing into our waterways.



- ♦ trash and litter. Never litter and learn to recycle.



- ♦ pet waste. Always pick up after your dog to keep bacteria out of our rivers.



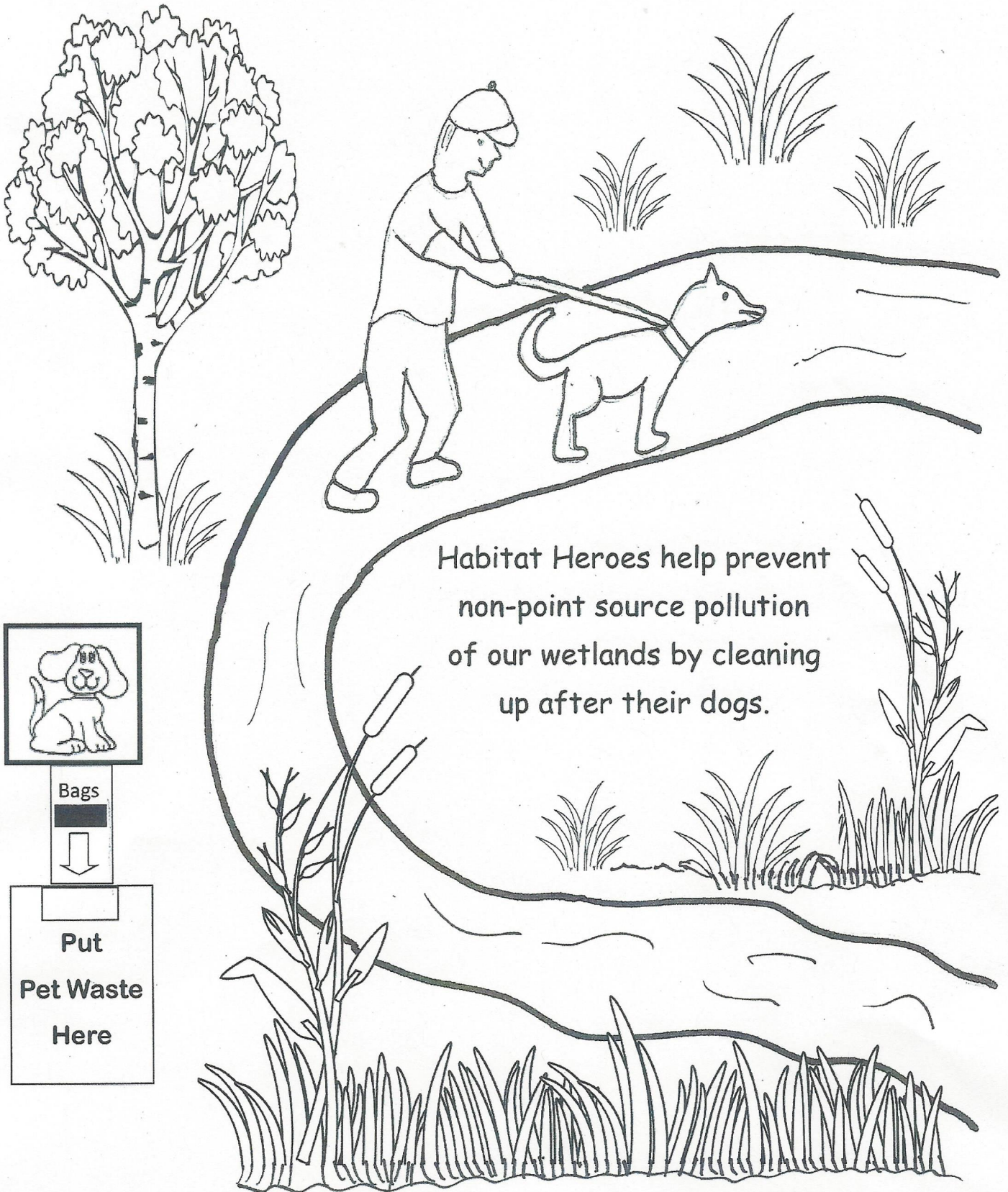
- ♦ bare soil. Plant grass and shrubs to keep dirt from washing away.



Never let any trash, oils, chemicals or waste wash into the storm drain.

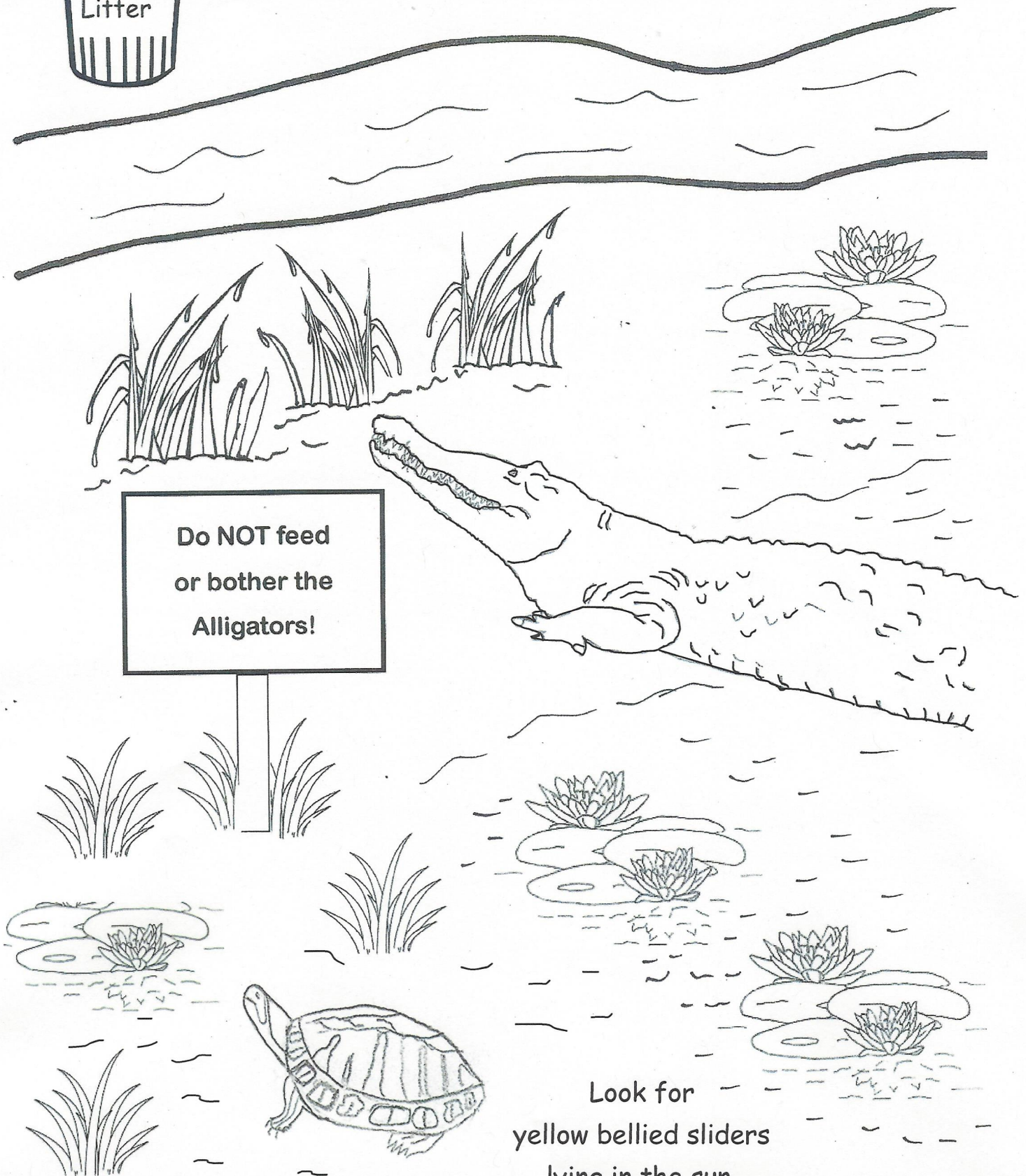
Habitat Heroes keep their dogs on a leash.

They don't let them bark and scare away the birds and animals.

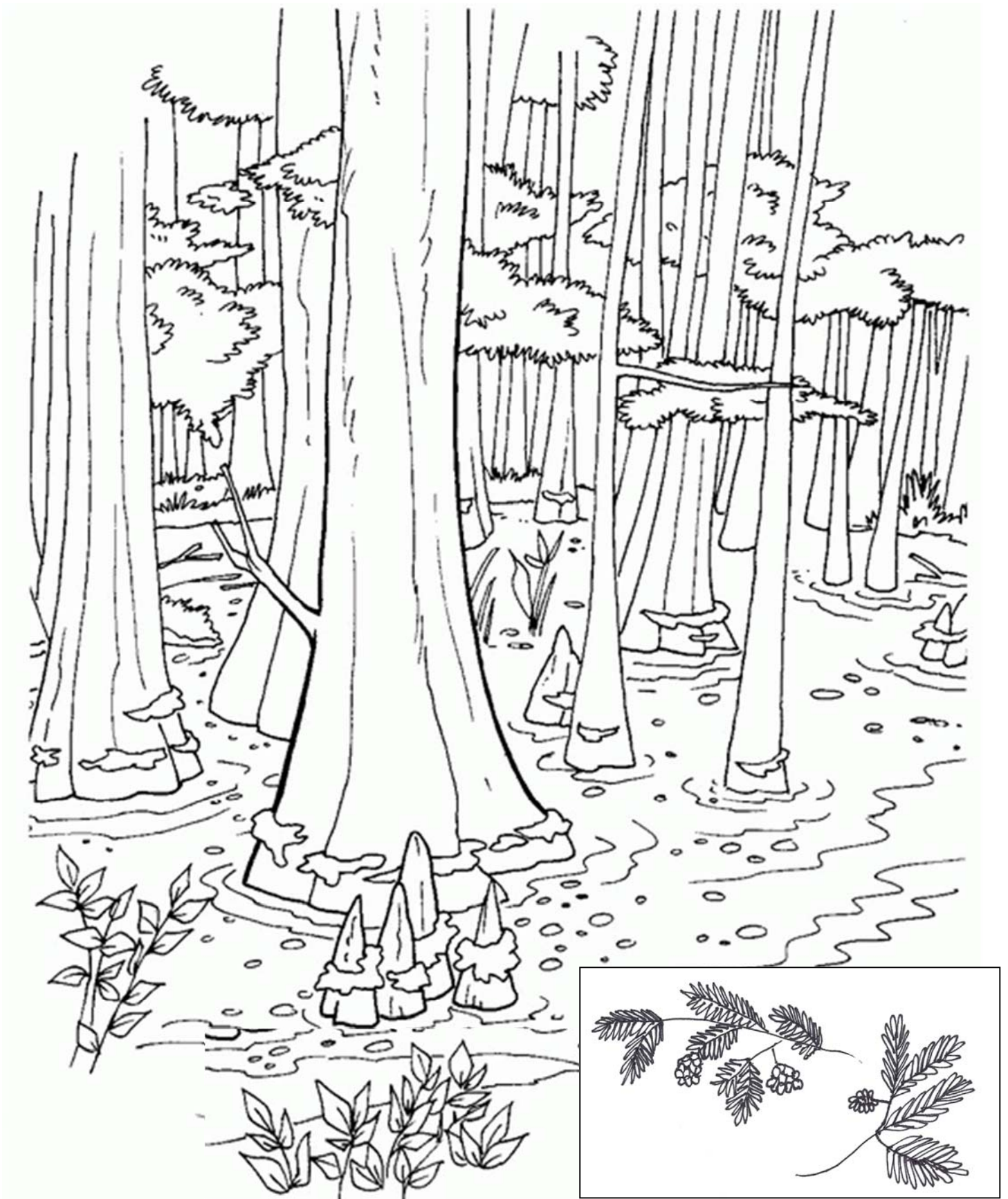




Habitat Heroes always put their trash in the litter can.
They never feed the alligators or bother them.

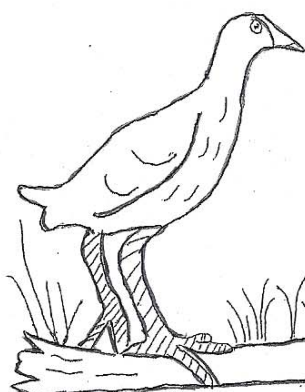


Look for
yellow bellied sliders
lying in the sun.

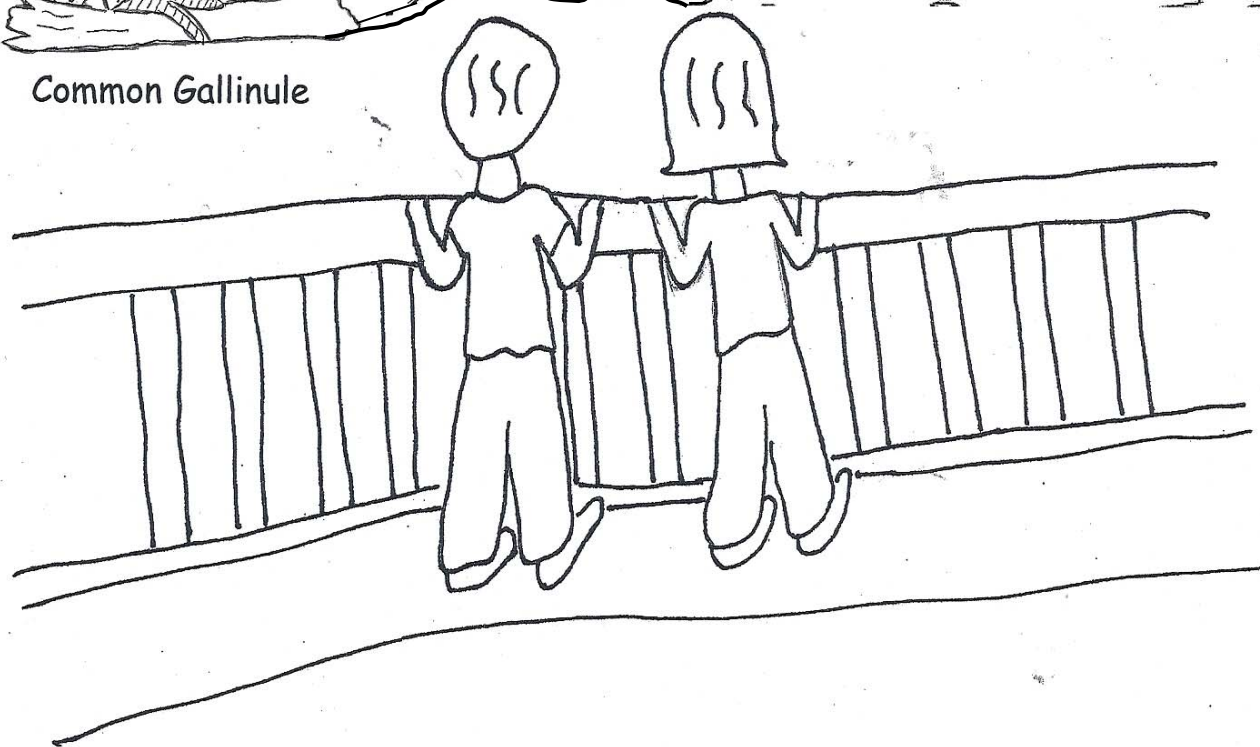


In wetland swamps bald cypress tree roots stick out of the water and are called "knees". See the picture of the leaves and cones in the box above.

The Common Gallinule or marsh hen is the size of a chicken and has a red plate on its face with dark brown or black feathers.



Common Gallinule



Habitat Heroes always stay on the trail.

They watch quietly.

Be a Habitat Hero!



Wetlands are home to many different kinds of animals.

Cypress Wetlands are a bird habitat or rookery.

A rookery is a great place for birds to nest, find food, and raise their young.

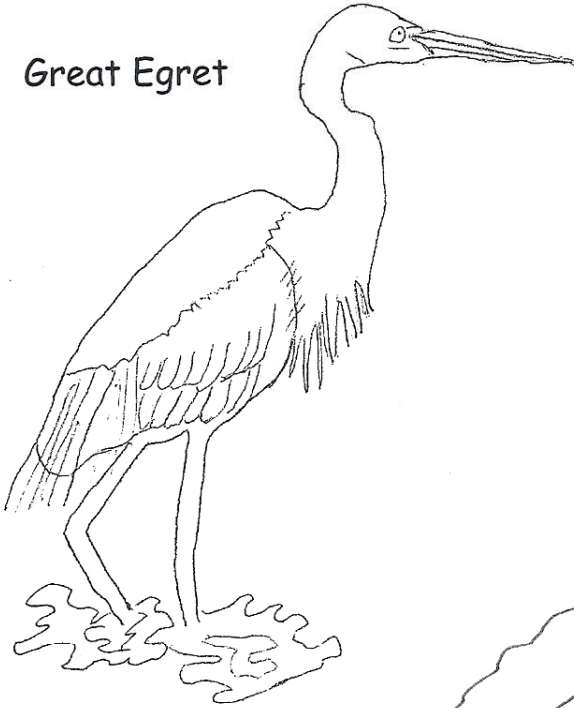
Find the flying Great Egret, the swimming Wood Duck, the Spanish moss hanging from the bald cypress tree, the green tree frog hiding on a branch, and the black rat snake by the tree.

Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets are large, white wading birds.

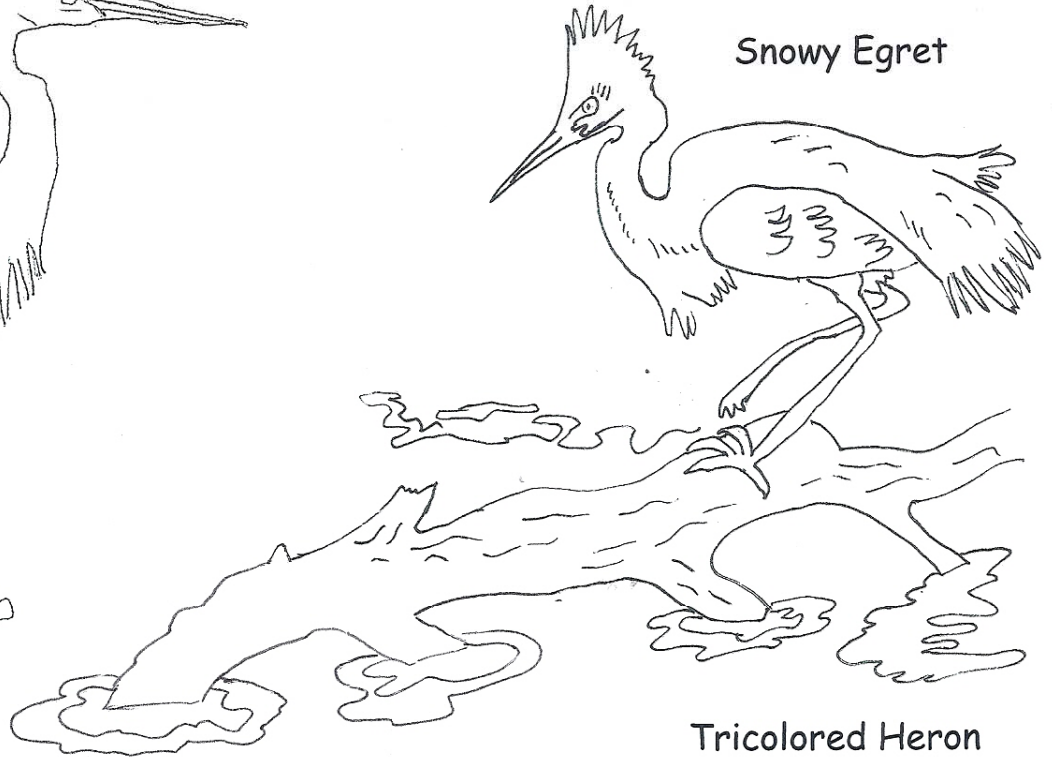
Great Egrets have black legs and feet with a bright yellow-orange bill.

Snowy Egrets have yellow feet, black legs, and a black bill and often have feathers sticking out of their heads.

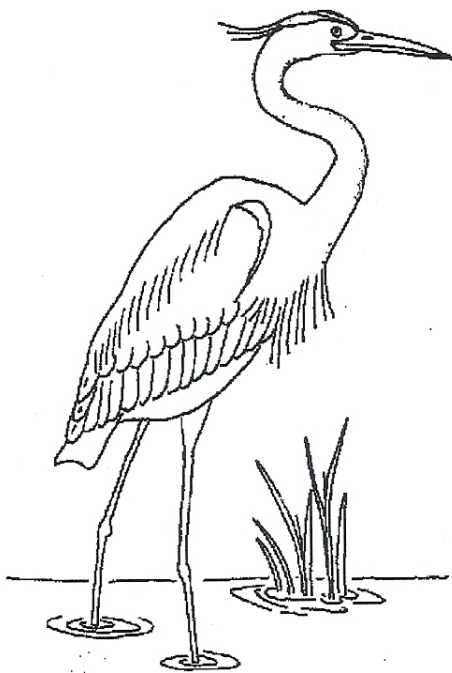
Great Egret



Snowy Egret

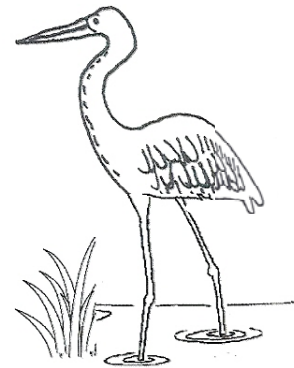


Great Blue Heron



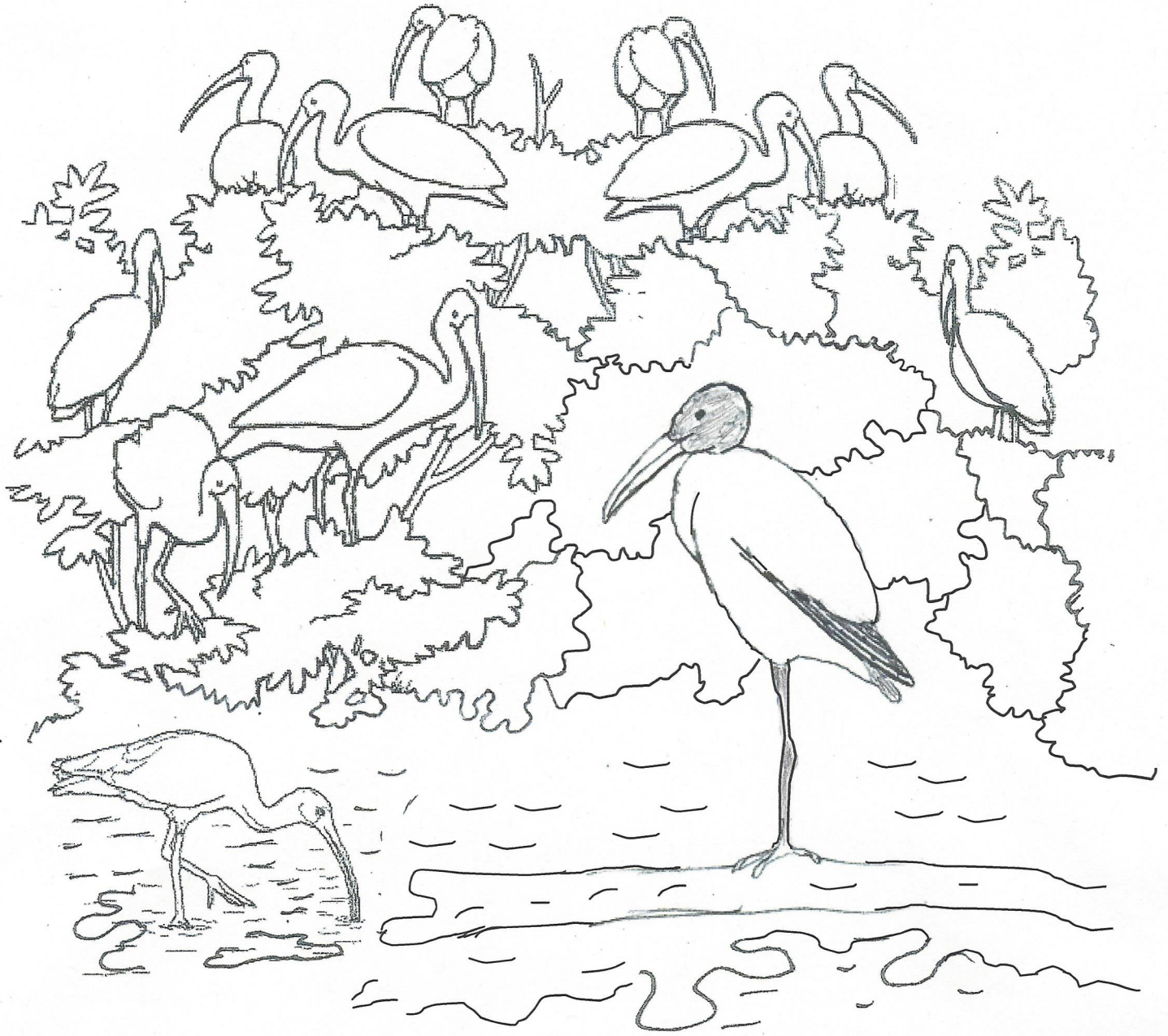
The Great Blue Heron is another large wading bird. They are mostly blue, gray, and white with a tan neck. They have a black stripe over their eyes.

Tricolored Heron



The Tricolored Heron is a smaller Heron with a dark blue or brown back and neck. They have a white chest which makes it easier to tell them apart from Little Blue Herons which are all dark blue and no white.

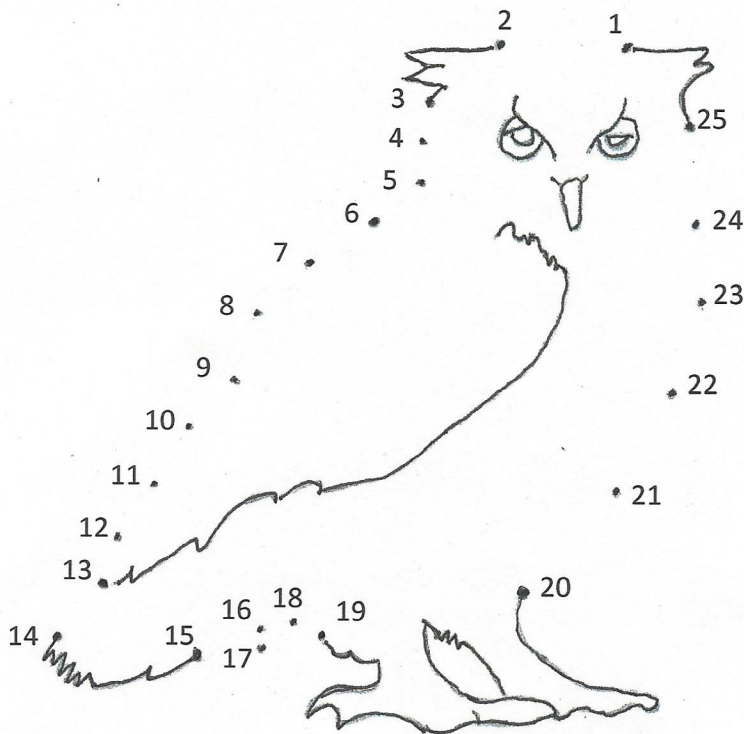
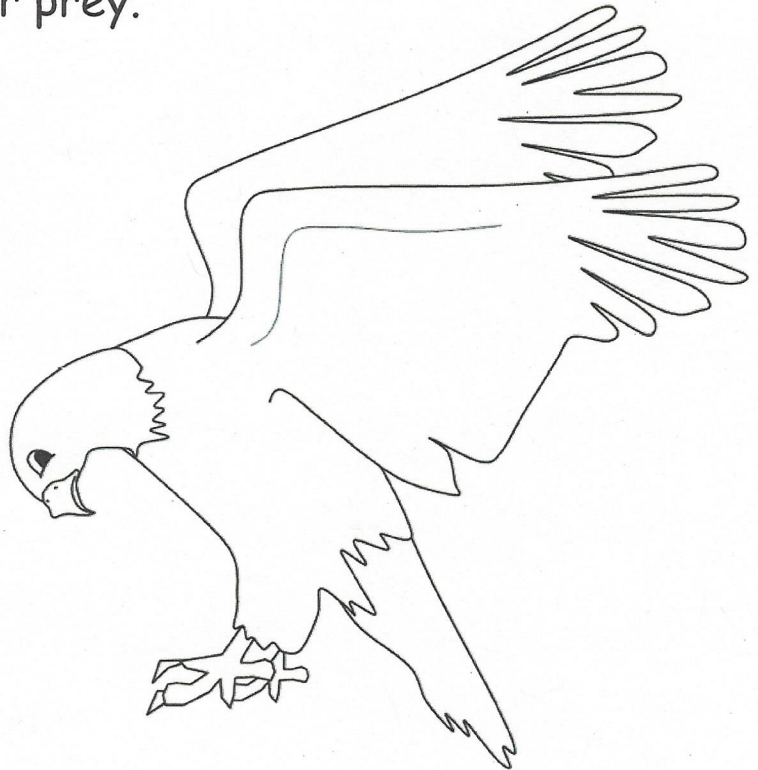
The White Ibis is one of many kinds of white wading birds that you will see nesting at the Cypress Wetlands and around estuaries and ponds in Beaufort County. They have long, curved orange bills with orange legs and feet.



The Wood Stork is another white wading bird, but larger than the Ibis. It has a bald head that looks black, with black legs, orange feet and a thick dark beak. Both the Ibis & Wood Stork have black on their wings.

Birds of prey, or raptors, have sharp claws called "talons" for catching small animals or prey. Raptors also have hooked beaks to help them eat their prey.

I am the national bird
and symbol for the USA.
White feathers cover my
head. Who am I?



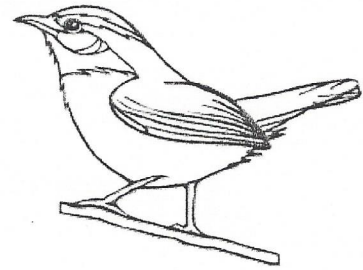
I hunt at night and say
"whooo". There are
many different species
or kinds of me. Some
people say that I am
very wise.

Who am I?

Song Birds

Many song birds can be seen at the Cypress Wetlands..

Hummingbirds like to sip nectar from the orange trumpet creeper or cross vine shown below. They are very small and the size of a big bug.



The Carolina Wren, above, is the South Carolina state bird.



The Yellow Bellied Sap Sucker leaves rows of holes in trees while drilling for sap.

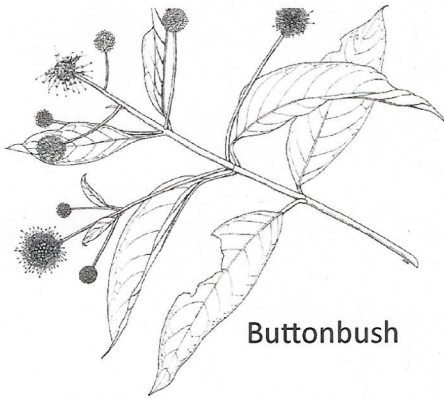


Red winged black birds can be seen perching on twigs and snags. A snag is a dead tree. You can see a patch of red on their wings when they fly.

Go to: <http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search.aspx> to learn more about these birds.

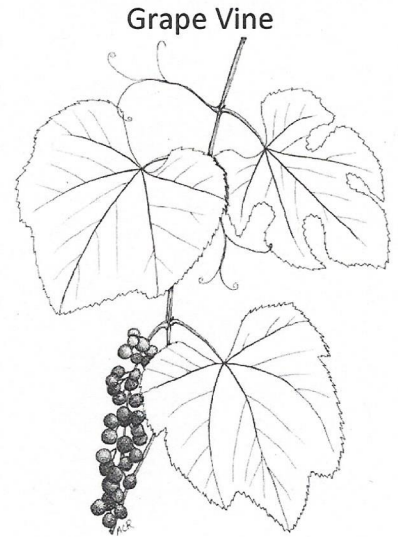
Plants to Know About

Buttonbush is a large woody shrub with white fluffy, button like flowers.



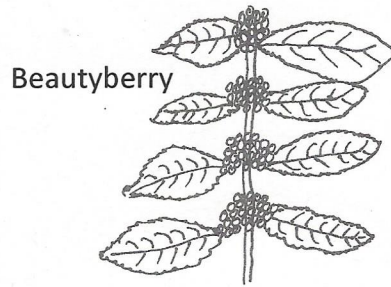
Buttonbush

Grape vine has heart shaped leaves and grows along the ground and in trees. The vine can get very big and woody.

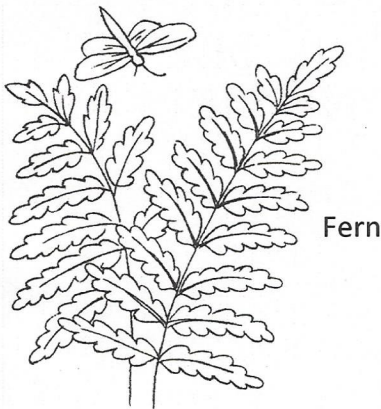


Grape Vine

Beautyberry bush is a large woody shrub with purple berries that provide food for wildlife in the fall.



Beautyberry



Fern

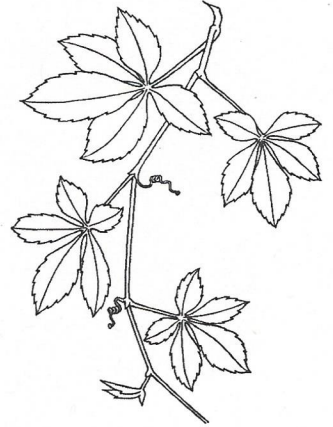
Many species or kinds of ferns grow in the Cypress Wetlands.

The Sassafras tree is easily identified by its lobed leaves. It provides food for wildlife and is used for tea and flavoring root beer.



Sassafras

Virginia Creeper



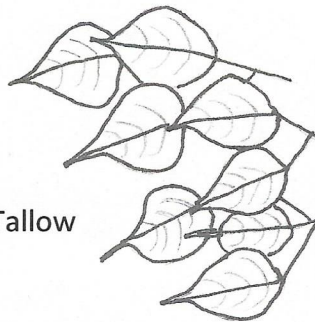
The Virginia creeper vine seen above has 5 leaves and looks a lot like the Poison Ivy vine below which has 3 leaves.



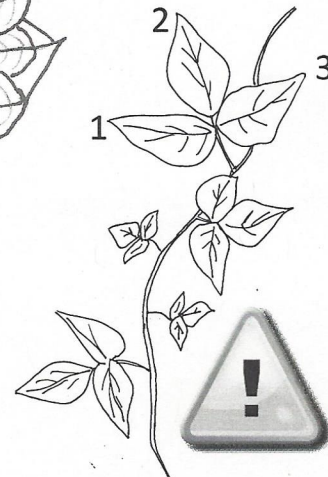
Gator Weed

Alligator weed or gator weed is a creeping vine like with reddish purple stems and a small clover like white flower.

Chinese Tallow

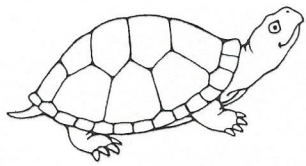


Chinese tallow or popcorn tree is an invasive species. It's dried seeds look like popcorn. This tree grows quickly and chokes out other plants that provide food for wildlife.



Poison Ivy

I have 3 leaves.
Don't touch!
I can give you a very itchy rash.



turtle

Important Words to Match

Draw a line to the correct definition.

1. Home for animals
2. Area where birds live, nest, and raise their young
3. Birds that have talons or claws to catch small animals
4. Butterflies, mosquitoes, ants and other bugs
5. Snakes, turtles, lizards, and alligators
6. An ecosystem that catches and soaks up water
7. Oils, trash, animal waste and other runoff items
8. Rainwater that flows off land into waterways

insects

raptors

habitat

stormwater

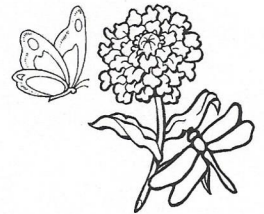
rookery

pollutants

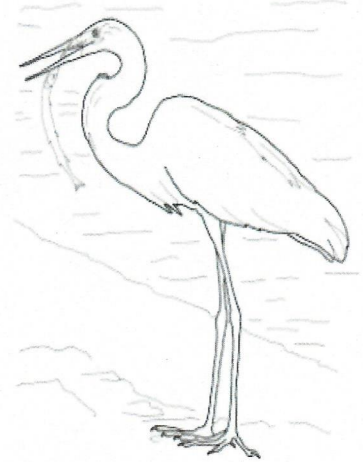
reptiles

wetlands

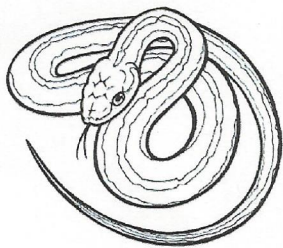
butterfly



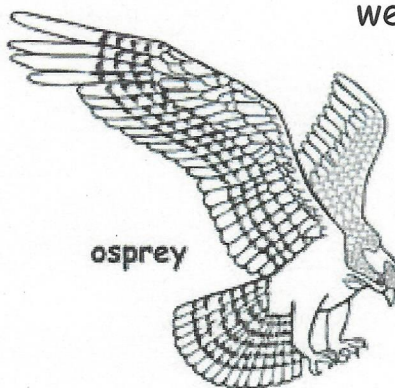
dragon fly



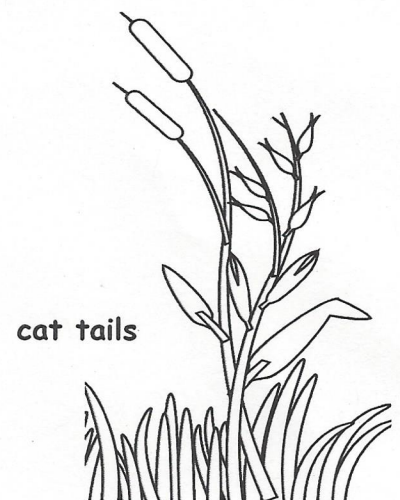
white egret



garter snake

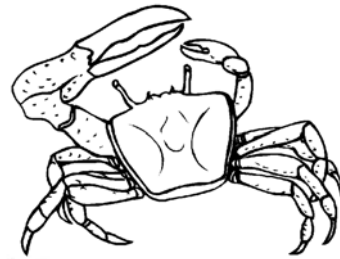


osprey



cat tails

1 habitat 2 rookery 3 raptors 4 insects 5 reptiles 6 wetlands 7 pollutants 8 stormwater



Wonderful Wetlands

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Across

Down

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2. Water that is part fresh and part salty | 1. Any home where an animal lives |
| 5. Pollution that comes from oils, lawn chemicals, pet droppings, and other waste | 3. Rain that washes off our streets and land into nearby creeks, ponds, and rivers |
| 7. Freshwater wetland with large trees growing in the dark water | 4. Type of tree with knees that is found in a swamp. |
| 8. An entire community of plants and animals and how they interact and survive with each other, the land, and climate | 6. A tidal wetland that is known for being a nursery to raise many of our coastal species such as shrimp and fish |

brackish * cypress * ecosystem * estuary * habitat * nonpoint source * stormwater * swamp

Cypress Wetland Word Search

Find and circle the words listed at the bottom.

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

ALLIGATOR

EGRET

HUMMING BIRD

OSPREY

RACCOON

TREE FROG

BALD CYPRESS

GREAT BLUE HERON

IBIS

OWL

ROOKERY

WETLANDS

BALD EAGLE

GREEN ANOLE

OPOSSUM

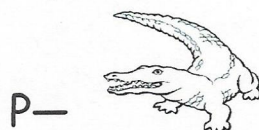
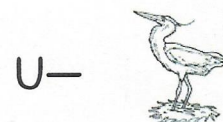
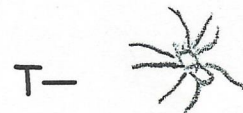
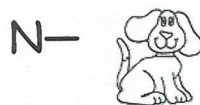
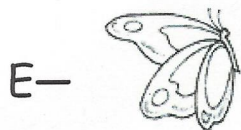
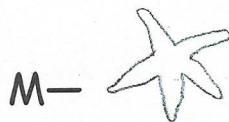
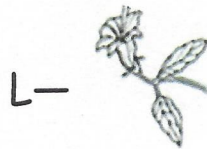
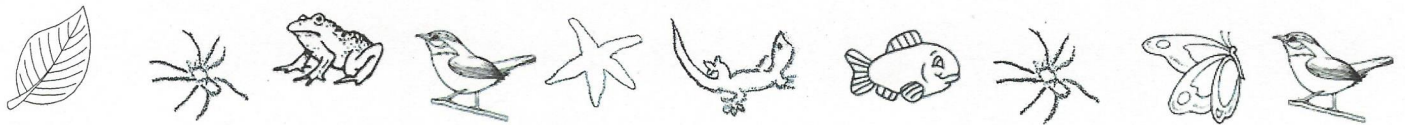
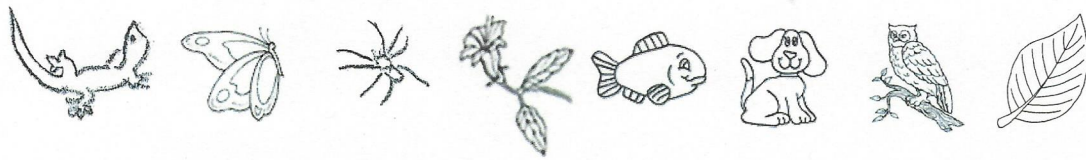
POISON IVY

SPANISH MOSS

WOOD DUCK

WOOD STORK

Secret Ecosystem Code



Critter Scramble



aroCilan rewn

Hint: I am a small song bird, but I am also the



umsopso

Hint: I am a mammal but I also am a marsupial.
I have a pouch that I use to carry my babies.



low

Hint: I have big eyes that allow me to hunt at night.
I am a raptor and like to eat small mammals.



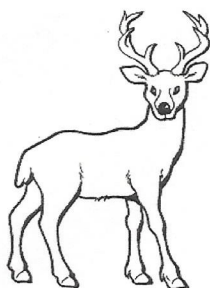
carnoco

Hint: I am a mammal and I usually hunt at night, but
stay away from me. I can carry the rabies virus.



ucdk

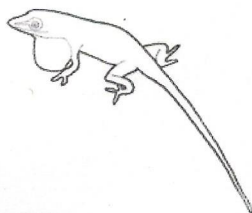
Hint: I am an bird who loves water. I have short legs and
webbed feet. I come in many colors. Cypress Wetlands is the
perfect nesting place for my babies.



hwtei aiteld

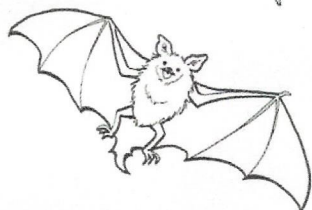
erde

Hint: I am a large mammal that eats grass and plants
and I usually stay hidden during the day.



egern laoen

Hint: I am a small lizard and can change from green to
brown to help me stay hidden or camouflaged. You can
see me push out my red dewlap or throat fan.



tab

Hint: I am a flying mammal. I find my way with a kind of
natural radar. I eat lots of insects.

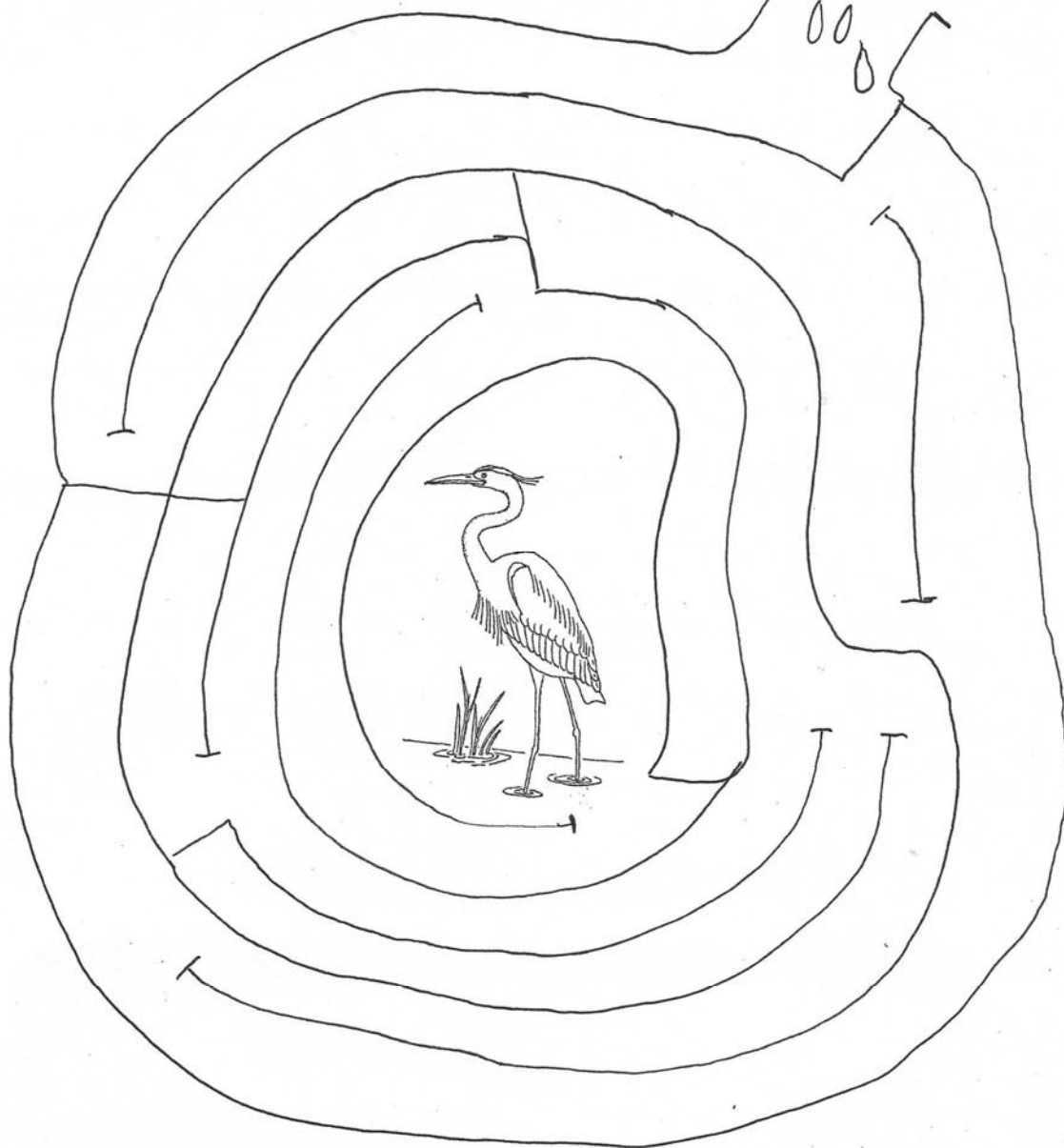
*Carolina wren * opossum * owl * raccoon * duck * white tailed deer * green anole* bat

Help the rain drops find their way to the Cypress Wetlands.

Rain washes pollutants from our houses, yards,
driveways, and roads.

Wetlands slow the stormwater so nonpoint
source pollutants do not go directly
into our waterways.

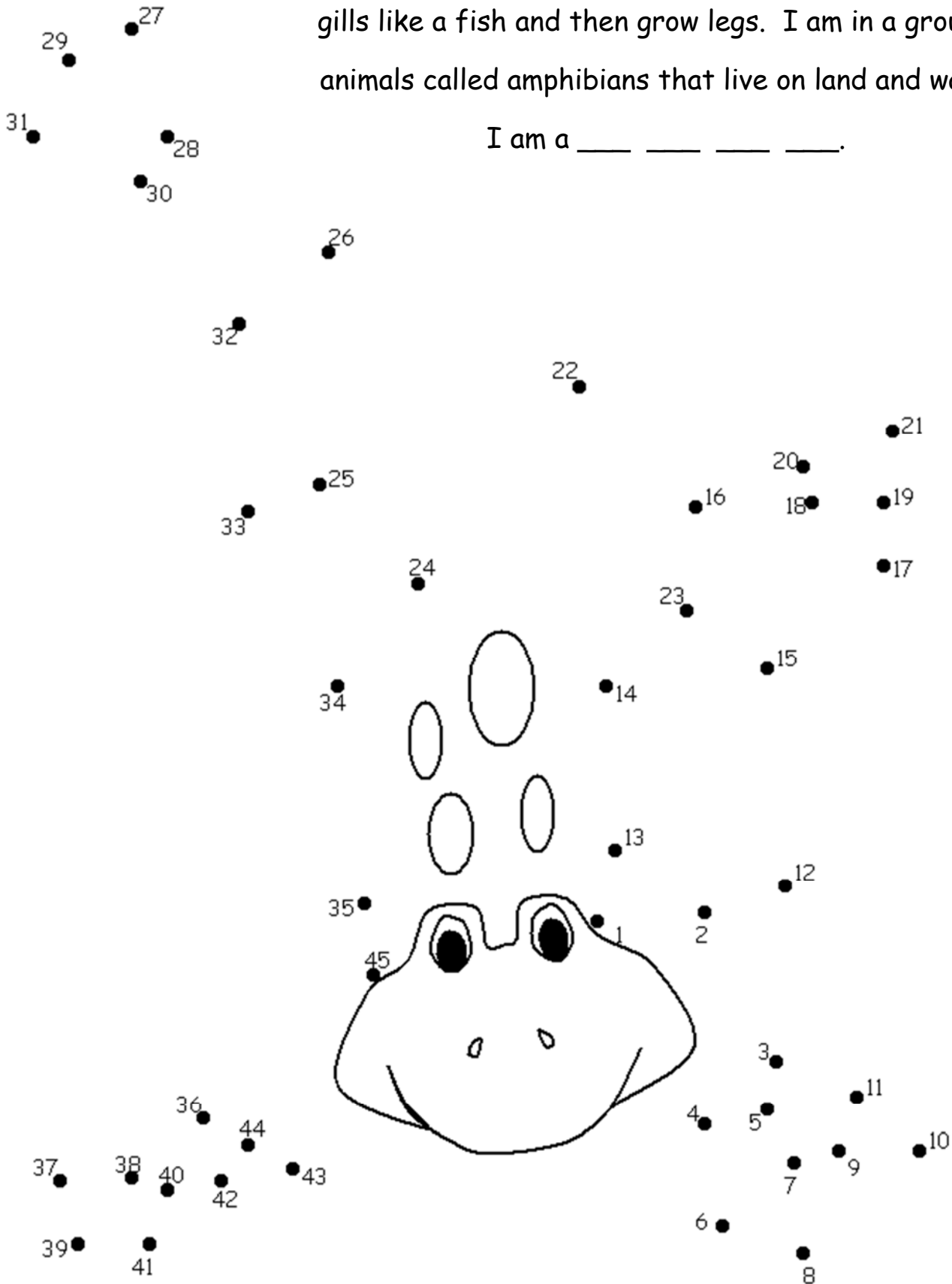
Follow the maze to the wetlands.



Who am I?

I begin life as an egg and I grow into a tadpole. I grow gills like a fish and then grow legs. I am in a group of animals called amphibians that live on land and water.

I am a ____ _ _ _ _.



Glossary

Amphibian—a cold-blooded animal that breathes through gills when young and later lives on land like frogs and salamanders

Brackish – water that is part salty and fresh

Ecosystem – all of the plants, animals, land, and climate of an area and how they interact
Wetlands are a kind of ecosystem.

Erosion— when soil washes or blows away. Oyster beds hold soils in place and prevent shoreline erosion.

Estuary – area where saltwater mixes with fresh water in a river

Habitat – a home that an animal lives in, like a rookery

Insect – a six legged bug that includes butterflies, mosquitoes, roaches, ant, etc.

Migration – birds and other animals that travel from one area to another with the seasons of the year
Some birds and butterflies travel several thousand miles.

Nocturnal—word that describes animals that are active at night like owls and raccoons

Nonpoint source pollution - oil, litter, lawn chemicals, pet waste and other pollutants that are washed off of streets, lawns, and surrounding land that washes into surrounding water ways by rain

Point source pollution— pollution that is known to come from a factory or industry that can be “pointed to”

Pollutants - oil, litter, lawn chemicals, pet waste, factory discharges, and other chemicals

Prey - an animal that is a meal for another animal
Animals usually prey on animals smaller than themselves.

Raptor – bird of prey that has talons or claws to catch and tear up small animals

Reptile – type of cold-blooded animal that includes snakes, turtles, lizards, and alligators

Rookery – home where birds live, nest, and raise their young

Stormwater – rain that washes off into waterways

Species— a type of an animal, such as a Great Horned Owl is a certain species or type of owl

Swamp – a fresh water wetland

Tannins – decomposing leaves put tannins into a swamp making the water black

Wetlands – ecosystems that soak up stormwater runoff, filter pollutants, and provide habitats for many species of animals

Suggested Wildlife & Computer Activities Webpages

<http://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife.html>

SC Department of Natural Resources

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/search>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

<http://srelherp.uga.edu/index.htm>

Reptile & Amphibian ID - Savannah River Ecology Lab

<http://www.rangerrick.org>

National Wildlife Federation

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeUPbGWg2KU>

Bill Nye on Wetlands

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com>

National Geographic Kids

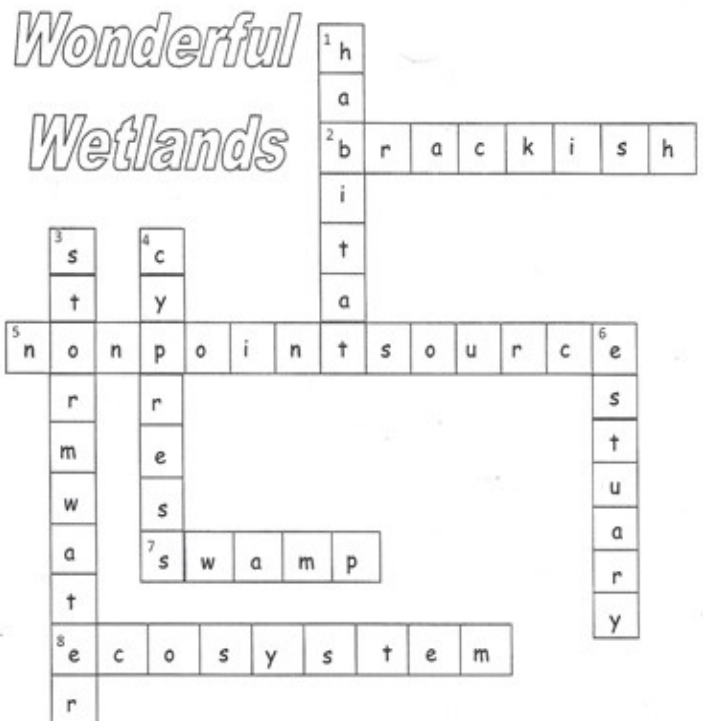
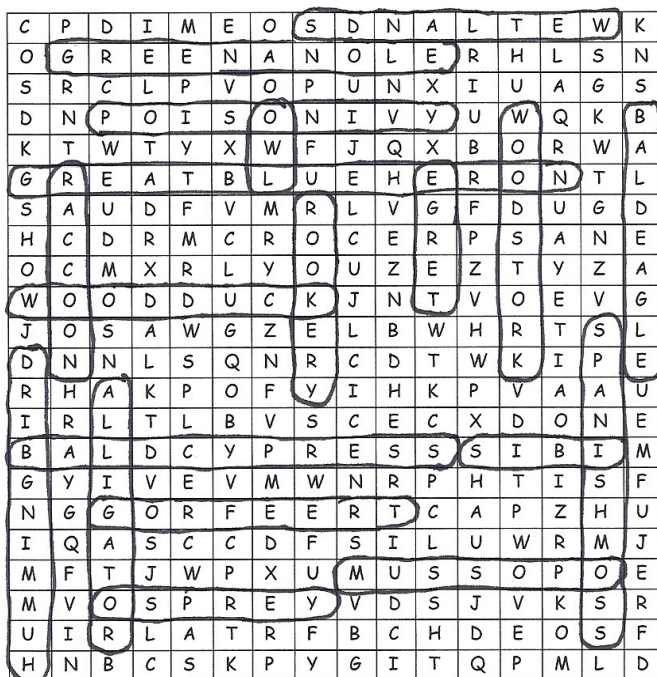
<http://games.noaa.gov/>

NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration)

** Webpage links are current as of March 2021.

Answers

Word Search Answers





<http://www.portroyal.org/>



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Friends of Port Royal Cypress Wetlands

To support the Friends of Port Royal Cypress Wetlands Friends of Port Royal Cypress Wetlands



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Beaufort Soil & Water Conservation District work closely with USDA (US Department of Agriculture) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR).



Natural Resources Conservation Service

