

South Carolina Aquarium

6th – 8th Grade Scavenger Hunt

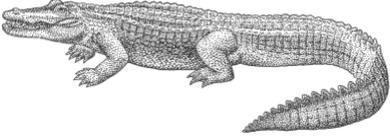
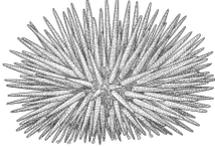
Name _____

The South Carolina Aquarium is designed to show you the habitats of South Carolina from the Mountains to the Sea. Head up the escalator to start your journey through our state! This information is helpful:

- Answers for **page 1** are found in no certain order.
- Answers for **pages 2-4** can be found in order by starting in the mountains and walking to the sea.

All Galleries

Taxonomy is the classification of organisms. This is one way scientists can learn about and protect the natural world. As you walk around, look for the following animals. For each, figure out the phylum and the Aquarium exhibit each animal can be found. Look below this table for phylum help.

	Phylum	Aquarium exhibit
 Moon jelly		
 American Alligator		
 Octopus		
 Sea Urchin		

Phylum Chordata – animals with a vertebrae

Phylum Porifera – have pores, filter feeders

Phylum Cnidaria – tentacles, stinging cells

Phylum Mollusca – soft muscular foot, hard shell

Phylum Echinodermata – spiny or bumpy skin, water vascular system

Phylum Arthropoda – jointed appendages, eyes, exoskeleton

The Mountains

Mountain Forest exhibit:

Circle the word in each pair that best describes a mountain stream.

Fast-moving **or** Slow-moving

Hot **or** Cold

Oxygen-rich **or** Oxygen-poor

Thinking question: How do the stream characteristics that you circled influence what animals can be found in the mountains?

Piedmont

South Carolina can be broken down into many watersheds. Use the watershed map near the log to answer these questions.

1. What is a watershed?
2. The South Carolina Aquarium is located in what watershed?
3. Your school is located in what watershed?

Reservoir exhibit:

Name 1 pro and 1 con of damming a river.

Pro: _____ **Con:** _____

Shifting Shorelines map:

How does the rotating map help explain how marine fossils can be found in the Coastal Plain and terrestrial fossils can be found 20 miles off the coast?

Coastal Plain

Brownwater Swamp and Blackwater Swamp exhibits:

What makes a Brownwater Swamp brown?	What makes a Blackwater Swamp black?

List 2 reasons why swamps are vital ecosystems in South Carolina.

1.

2.

Carolina Bay exhibit:

Describe a Carolina Bay habitat.

Why are carnivorous plants found in Carolina Bays and no other habitat in South Carolina?

Saltmarsh

Where does a saltmarsh habitat get its nutrients (circle your answer)? **Land** **Sea** **Land and sea**

Name 2 functions of a saltmarsh.

1.

2.

Thinking question: What would happen to South Carolina’s coast if our saltmarshes were destroyed?

Use the given terms and match them to each description (each letter may be used more than once).

- | | | | |
|---|--|-----|--|
| A | Population – a group of organisms that can breed with one another (all the same species in an area) | ___ | All the red drum |
| B | Community – all the organisms (living things) that inhabit a particular area | ___ | Spartina grass is a producer |
| C | Ecosystem – all the living and non-living things in a particular area | ___ | All the plants, animals, pluff mud and water |
| D | Niche – the role an organism plays in an ecosystem | ___ | Oysters clean the water as they filter feed |
| | | ___ | Brown pelican is a consumer |
| | | ___ | All of the blue crabs and fiddler crabs |
| | | ___ | All of the great blue herons |
| | | ___ | All the plants and animals in the saltmarsh |
| | | ___ | Diamondback terrapin in an omnivore |

Coast

Aquatic Invaders Exhibit

Lionfish are invaders. Even though they are beautiful, they should not be in the waters of South Carolina. Explain why they are such a problem.

What can be done to help the problem?

Balanced Ocean Exhibit

Why should you “Ask Before You Order?”

Ocean

Great Ocean Tank

Fish have many fins. The caudal, or tail, fin is used to help them have the power to swim. The shape of the tail fin determines if they are a fast (forked tail) or slow (round tail) swimmer. List 2 fast fish and 2 slow fish.

Forked - fast

1.



2.

Round - slow

1.



2.

Zucker Family Sea Turtle Recovery

Sea turtles can be injured in many different ways. Sometimes they are harmed by humans and sometimes by natural causes. Pick one turtle in recovery and fill out the following information:

Name of your sea turtle:

Species of your sea turtle:

Why is your sea turtle in recovery?

Was the issue caused by humans or natural causes? Explain.

What can you do to help this sea turtle?

Aquarium Wrap-up

Now that you have travelled through the state of South Carolina, list 2 things you can do to protect South Carolina habitats and the animals that live there.

1.

2.