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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Aquarium exhibit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moon jelly</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>American Alligator</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Octopus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sea Urchin</td>
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Phylum Chordata – animals with a vertebrae
Phylum Porifera – have pores, filter feeders
Phylum Cnidaria – tentacles, stinging cells
Phylum Mullusca – 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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What makes a Brownwater Swamp brown?</th>
<th>What makes a Blackwater Swamp black?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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  ___  Sporobolus grass is a producer  ___  All the plants, animals, pluff mud and water
B  Community – all the organisms (living things) that inhabit a particular area  ___  Oysters clean the water as they filter feed  ___  Brown pelican is a consumer
C  Ecosystem – all the living and non-living things in a particular area  ___  All of the blue crabs and fiddler crabs  ___  All of the great blue herons
D  Niche – the role an organism plays in an ecosystem  ___  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.