

6th–8th Grade Scavenger Hunt

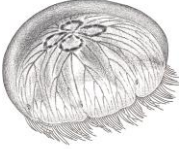
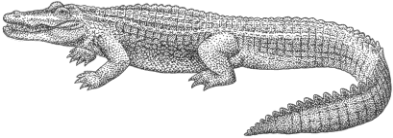

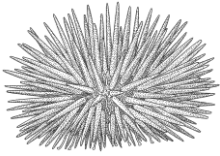
Name: _____

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 in which 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

6th–8th Grade Scavenger Hunt



Name: _____

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?

Scenic Overlook

1. Why is Phoenix, the American kestrel, at the South Carolina Aquarium?
2. Can you think of any other human-caused incidents that could harm animals in the wild?
3. What is an aquarium's role in helping protect species?

Coastal Plain

Brownwater Swamp and Blackwater Swamp exhibits:

What makes a brownwater swamp brown?	What makes a blackwater swamp black?

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

- 1.
- 2.

6th–8th Grade Scavenger Hunt



Name: _____

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 two 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 | ___ | Sporobolus (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 is an omnivore |

Coast

The South Carolina coast is home to marine organisms big and small. What is the largest species you found? Smallest?

Marine debris has become a growing issue off the coast. How might this affect the species you found, listed above?

6th–8th Grade Scavenger Hunt

Name: _____

Ocean

Great Ocean Tank

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

Forked - fast

1.



2.

Round - slow

1.



2.

Lower Ocean Gallery

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

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 sea turtle being treated in our hospital and fill out the following information:

Name of your sea turtle:

Species of your sea turtle:

Why is your sea turtle in rehabilitation?

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 traveled through the state of South Carolina, list two things you can do to protect South Carolina habitats and the animals that live in them.

1.

2.