

6th–8th Grade Scavenger Hunt

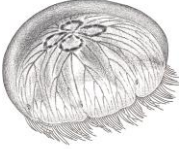
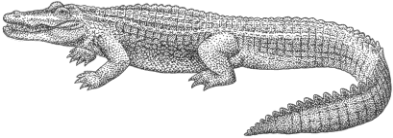

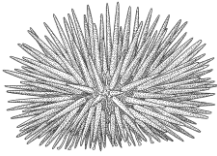
Answer Key

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	<i>Phylum Cnidaria</i>	Moon Jelly exhibit
 American alligator	<i>Phylum Chordata</i>	Blackwater Swamp exhibit Rice Fields exhibit
 Octopus	<i>Phylum Mollusca (no shell)</i>	Camouflage exhibit
 Sea urchin	<i>Phylum Echinodermata</i>	Touch Tank exhibit

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

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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? **The animals must be adapted to live in fast currents, cold temperatures and oxygen rich water.**

Scenic Overlook

1. Why is Phoenix, the American kestrel, at the South Carolina Aquarium?

Phoenix landed on a live electrical wire as a young bird. This resulted in her losing most of her toes and talons, making her unable to hunt for food on her own.

2. Can you think of any other human-caused incidents that could harm animals in the wild?

Answers vary. These are a few: entanglement, ingestion of trash and debris, destruction of habitat, car collisions, pesticides, etc.

3. What is an aquarium's role in helping protect species?

Answers vary. These are a few: education via ambassador animals and programs, participating in Species Survival Programs, research, etc.

Coastal Plain

Brownwater Swamp and Blackwater Swamp exhibits:

What makes a brownwater swamp brown?	What makes a blackwater swamp black?
Red clay sediment from the Piedmont being carried by rain water into the coastal plain swamps during the rainy season.	Tannins from tree leaves stain the water a darker color. The tannic acid from the leaves leech into the water as leaves fall into the swamps.

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

1. Great habitat for animals and plants. Filters water to help get rid of pollutants. Helps control flooding.

2. Answers can be many. These are a few.

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Carolina Bay exhibit:

Describe a Carolina bay habitat.

Shallow depressions, ringed with sand

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

Carnivorous plants live in areas where the nutrient level in the soil is low. These plants get nutrients by digesting insects.

Saltmarsh

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

Name two functions of a saltmarsh.

1. Sponge to absorb water and prevent flooding. Filters pollutants from water and land.
2. Shields the land from wave action and storms.

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

Answers vary. These are a few:

Largest: goliath grouper, spadefish, flounder

Smallest: seahorse, pinfish, sea star, could include some local mollusks species from the shell wall

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

Answers vary. These are a few:

Animals could become entangled, pollution could be ingested and cause illness or death, destroy habitat

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Ocean

Great Ocean Tank

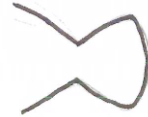
Fish have many fins. The caudal, or tail, fin gives them the power to swim. The shape of the tail fin determines if they are a fast (forked tail) or slow (round tail) swimmer. List two fast fish and two slow fish.

Forked - fast



1. **Jacks, sharks**
2. **Tomtate, blue runner, permit, pompano**

Round - slow



1. **Porcupine puffer, graysby grouper**
2. **Vermillion snapper, black sea bass, angelfish, tripletail**

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.

Lionfish have no natural predators in South Carolina; without natural predators their populations grow out of control and drive native fish out of their home.

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:

Answers will vary depending on turtle picked.
Visit scaquarium.org/sea-turtle-care-center to check answers.

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. **Recycle**
Don't litter
Pick up trash
2. **Use canvas bags instead of plastic, Use reusable bottles for drinks**
Reduce single-use plastics (forks, straws), Join a conservation organization
This just names a few...