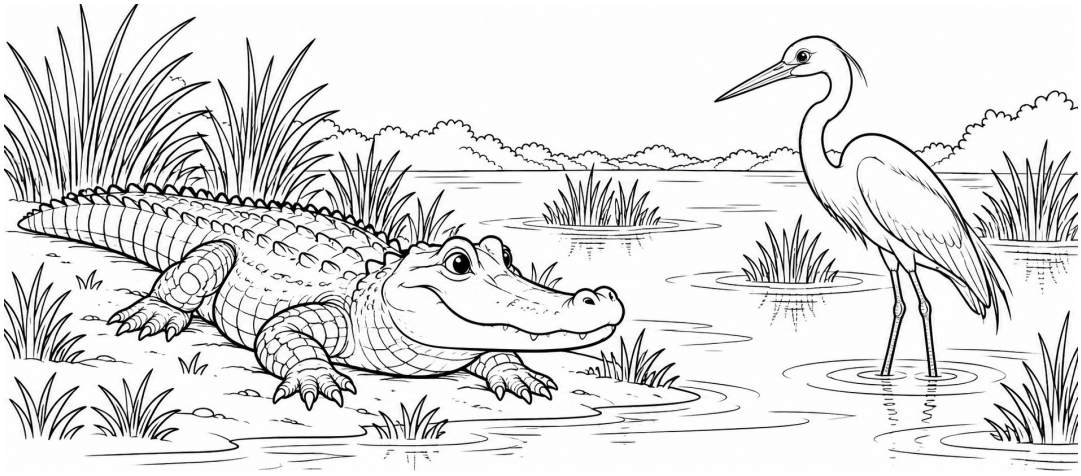
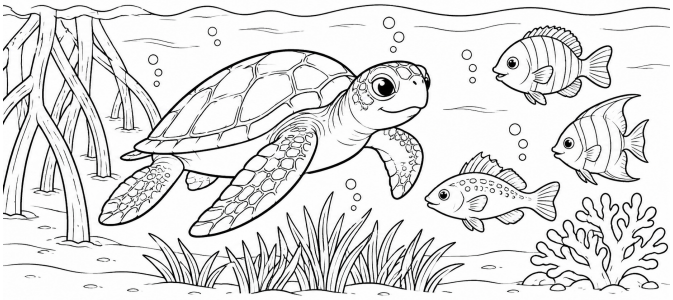
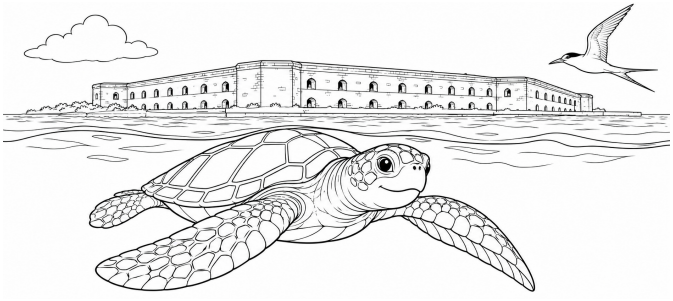
WATER, WILDLIFE AND ISLAND STORIES **FAMILY GUIDE**

Florida National Parks

Everglades / Biscayne / Dry Tortugas







CHOOSE YOUR DISCOVERIES

Ages 4-6: activities 3-14; answers 39-41.
Ages 7-9: activities 15-26; answers 42-44.
Ages 10+: activities 27-38; answers 45-47.
Shared parent guidance and sources: pages 48-50.

Follow a river of grass. Peek beneath a bay. Solve an island mystery.

This book belongs to

Print. Split. Explore.

Choose an age packet, or let an explorer choose a comfortable challenge. Each packet has its own introduction, complete answers and shared guidance.

AGES 4-6 | ACTIVITIES 3-14 | ANSWERS 39-41

Friendly coloring, four-picture stories, matching, food sorting, patterns, counting and an oral family game.

AGES 7-9 | ACTIVITIES 15-26 | ANSWERS 42-44

Water processes, food webs, comparison math, word search, crossword, evidence clues, timeline and dots and boxes.

AGES 10+ | ACTIVITIES 27-38 | ANSWERS 45-47

Habitat mysteries, ecological evidence, a changing water model, independent code, naturalistic study and Sudoku.

PRINT AND PACK

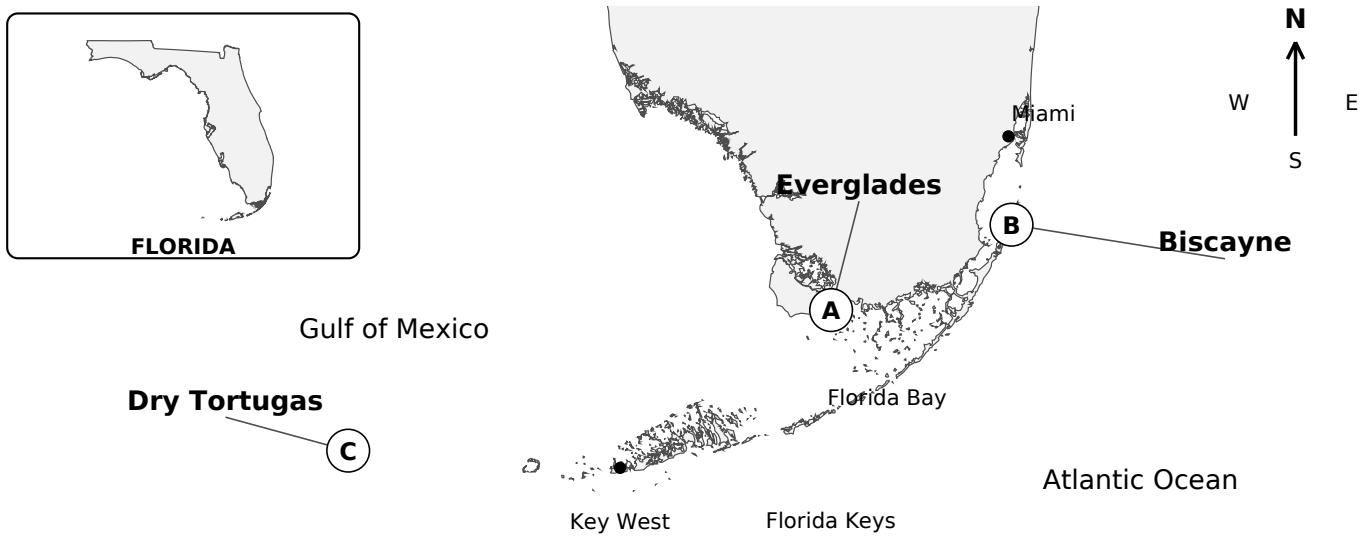
Print US Letter at actual size, or fit to A4. Grayscale works. Pack pencil, crayons and a clipboard. Each separate packet has activities 1-12, answers 13-15 and references 16-18.

Shared guidance and sources: pages 48-50. Keep the driver free to concentrate.

MEET YOUR PARKS **AGES 4-6**

Four places to explore

A wide wetland, a watery bay and tiny islands: Florida has many kinds of wild places.



A B C = park locations Small dot = city

FOUR PLACES TO EXPLORE

Everglades: broad wetlands. Biscayne: bay, islands and reefs. Dry Tortugas: small islands west of Key West. Garden Key: the island with Fort Jefferson, inside Dry Tortugas.

Point to the westernmost park. Find the park east of Everglades.

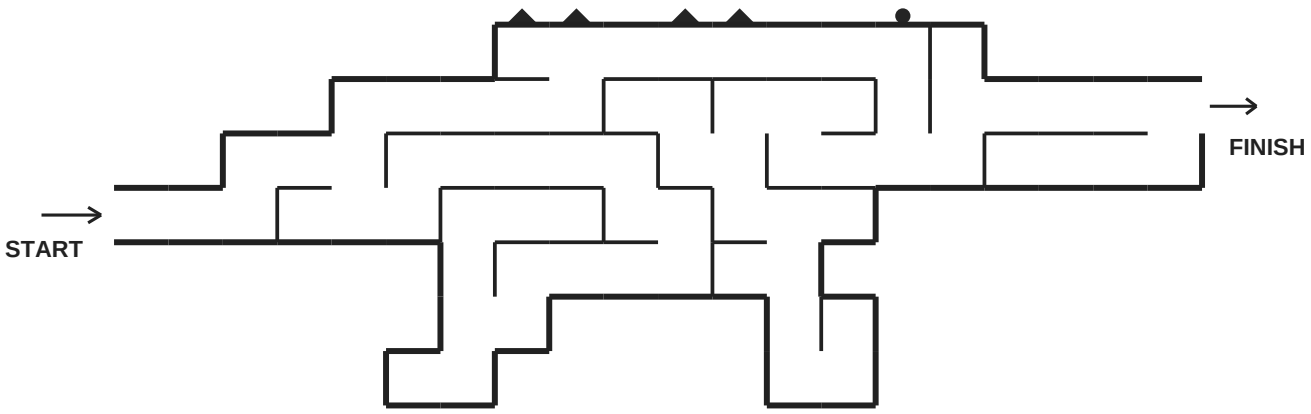
Choose one place above to investigate in this packet.

Answers begin on page 39.

SHAPED MAZE / GENTLE **AGES 4-6**

Through the alligator

Find a path from START to FINISH without crossing a wall.



A WETLAND HELPER

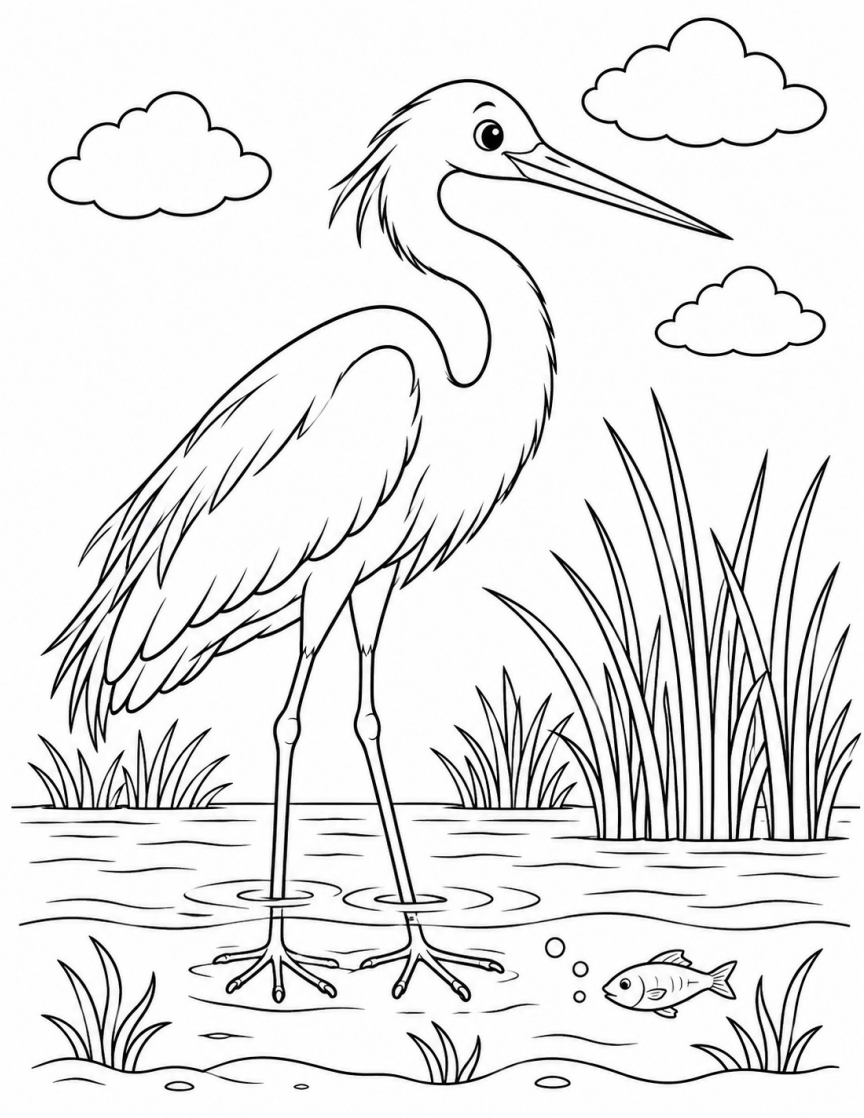
Alligators dig and maintain water holes. In dry times, water may remain in these deeper places while nearby ground dries.

Point to the long tail. Draw a little pool below it.

COLOR AND NOTICE **AGES 4-6**

A patient marsh hunter

Color the egret. Circle its long legs and point to its bill.



WAIT... WATCH... SNAP!

A great egret wades in shallow water and catches small animals. Long legs help keep its body above the water.

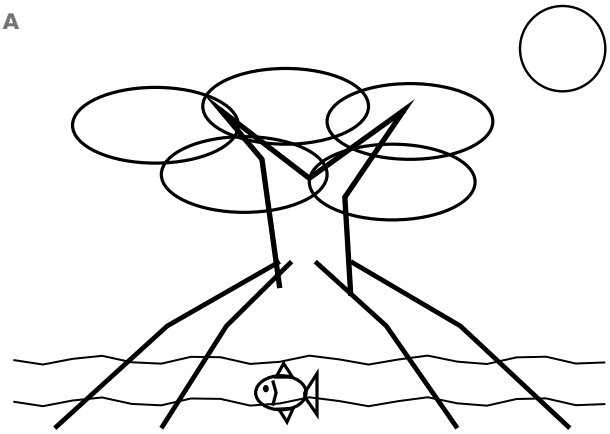
How many legs can you see? Say the number.

PUT A PICTURE STORY IN ORDER **AGES 4-6**

Follow a drop

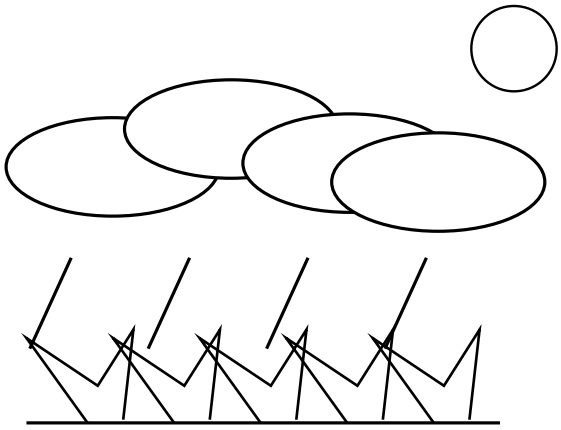
Point to what happens first. Write 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the circles.

A



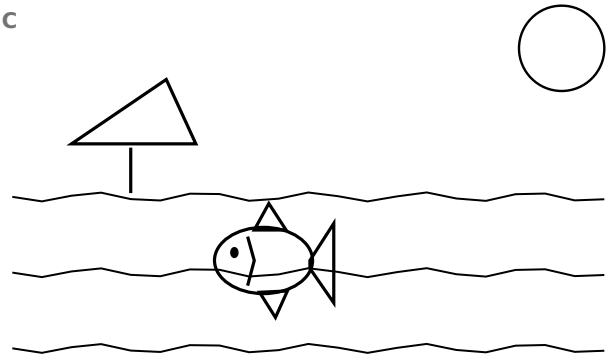
Water reaches the coast.

B



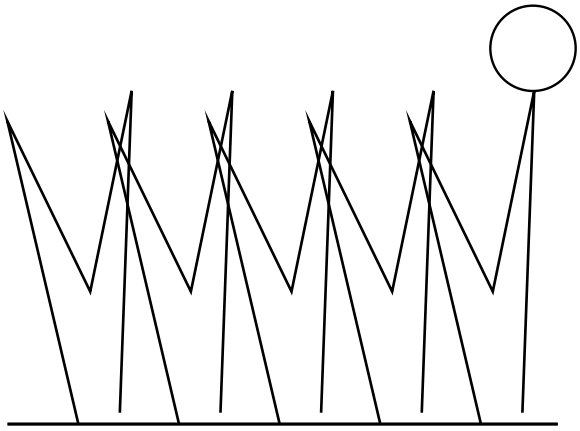
Rain falls.

C



Fresh water meets bay water.

D



Water spreads through marsh.

A VERY WIDE RIVER

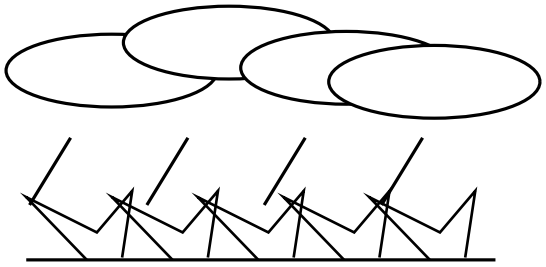
Slow, shallow water moves through Everglades marshes. Sawgrass gives the wetland its River of Grass nickname.

MATCH AND DRAW **AGES 4-6**

Four clues to water places

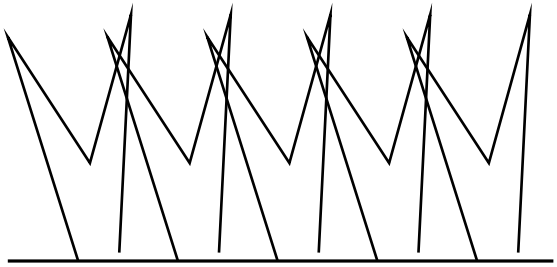
Point to the picture that matches each clue. Then add a water-flow arrow below.

A



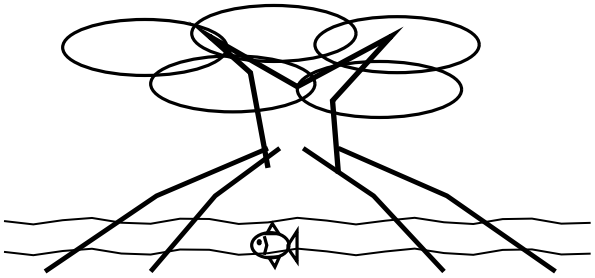
Water falls from clouds.

B



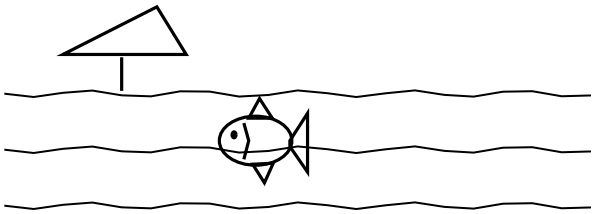
A wet grassy place.

C



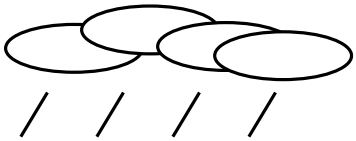
A coastal tree with roots.

D

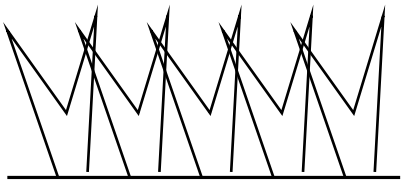


Sheltered coastal water.

Match: tree ___ clouds ___ bay ___ marsh ___



RAIN



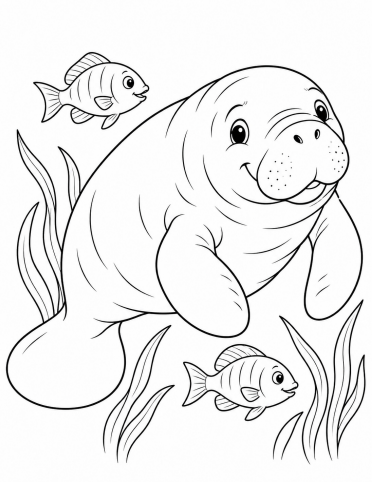
MARSH WATER

Draw an arrow showing rainwater moving into the marsh.

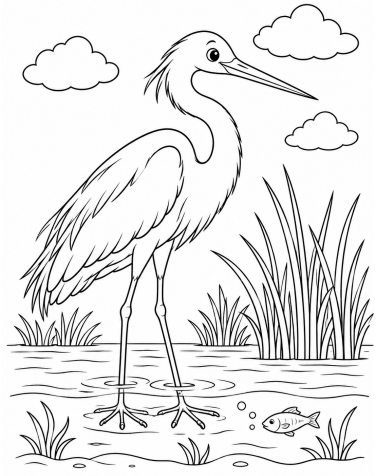
WILDLIFE SORTING **AGES 4-6**

Who eats what in the water

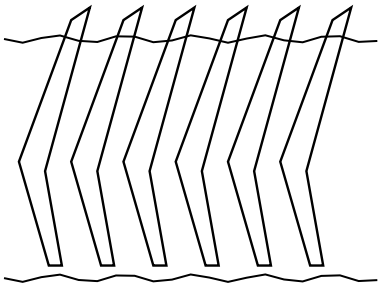
Draw lines from food to eater. A manatee grazes on seagrass. A great egret eats small animals, including fish and shrimp.



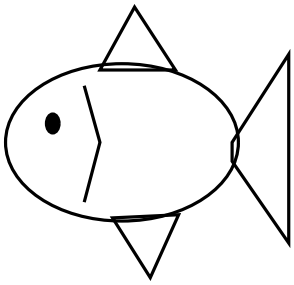
MANATEE



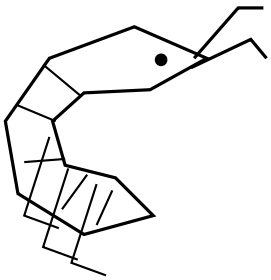
GREAT EGRET



SEAGRASS



FISH



SHRIMP

COUNT AND CIRCLE

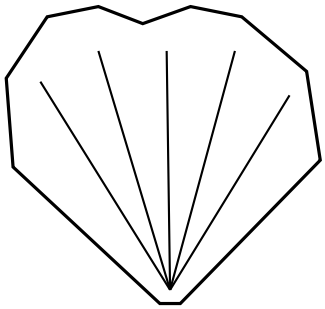
How many food pictures? ____

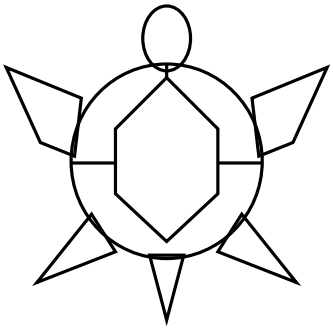
Circle the food that is a plant.

LOOK SAY AND DRAW **AGES 4-6**

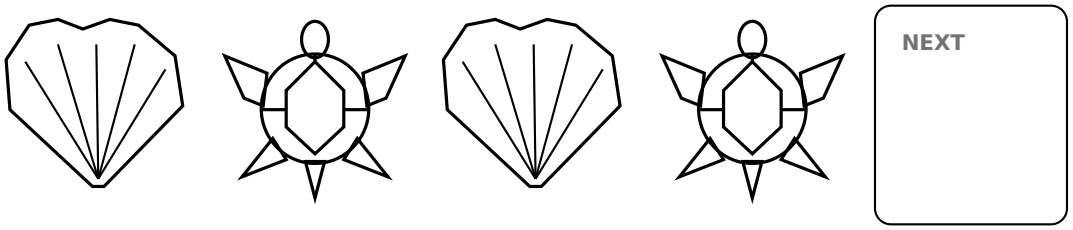
Island picture patterns

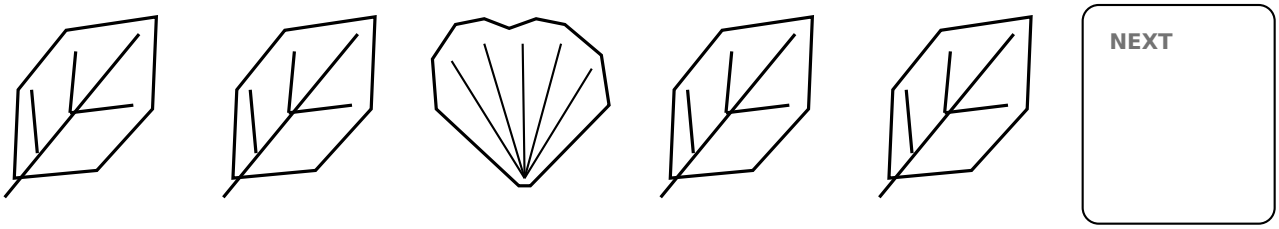
Say each picture pattern aloud. Draw what comes next.





Compare the shapes. Look for the repeating part.





Draw 2 pairs of shells. How many altogether? ____

TWO PAIRS

PEOPLE AND HISTORY AGES 4-6

People and a living wetland

Everglades has a human story older than its park name. Read the three parts with a grown-up.

LONG AGO

People lived in and traveled through South Florida long before a national park existed.

IN 1947

Everglades National Park was dedicated: an important step in protecting the wetland.

TODAY

Seminole and Miccosukee communities continue their relationships with the Everglades.

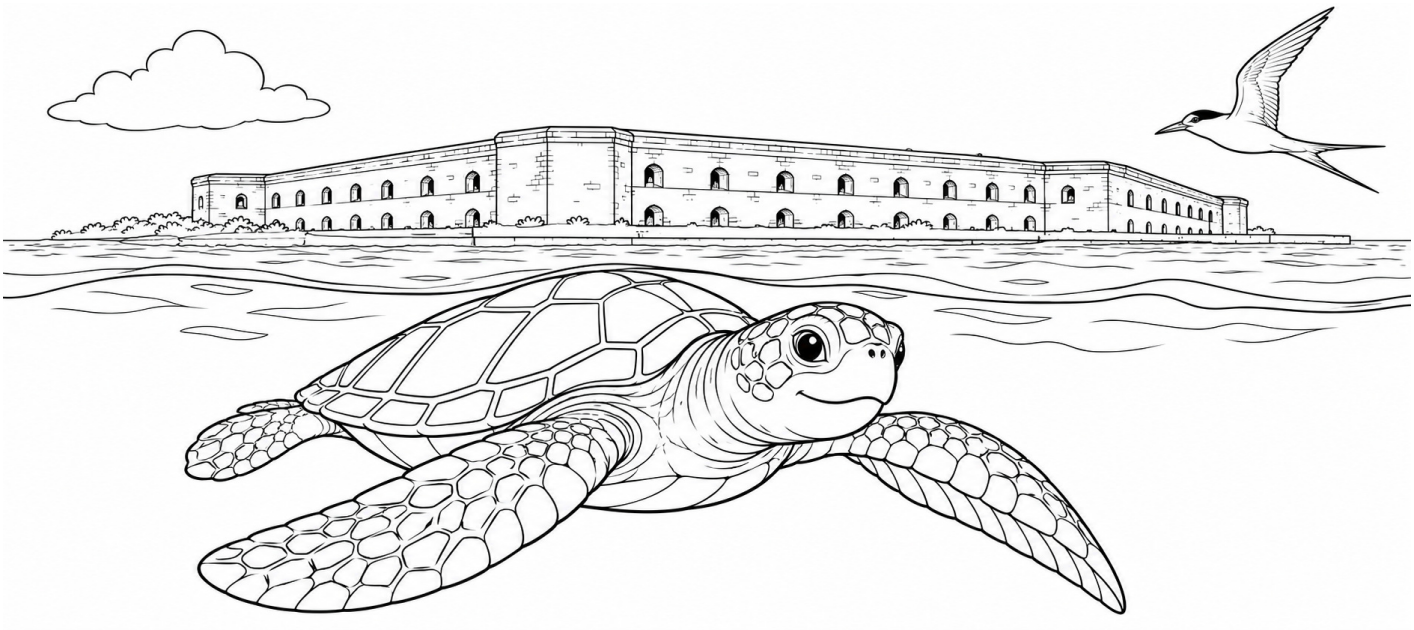
Point to the earliest part. Circle TODAY. How can your family care for a special place?

DRAW YOUR CARE-FOR-A-PLACE IDEA

COUNT AND BUILD **AGES 4-6**

Build an island discovery

Color the island scene. Then draw the small things and count them.



A FORT IN THE SEA

Fort Jefferson stands on Garden Key in Dry Tortugas. Tortugas means turtles in Spanish.

Draw 4 shells, then 3 more. How many? ___

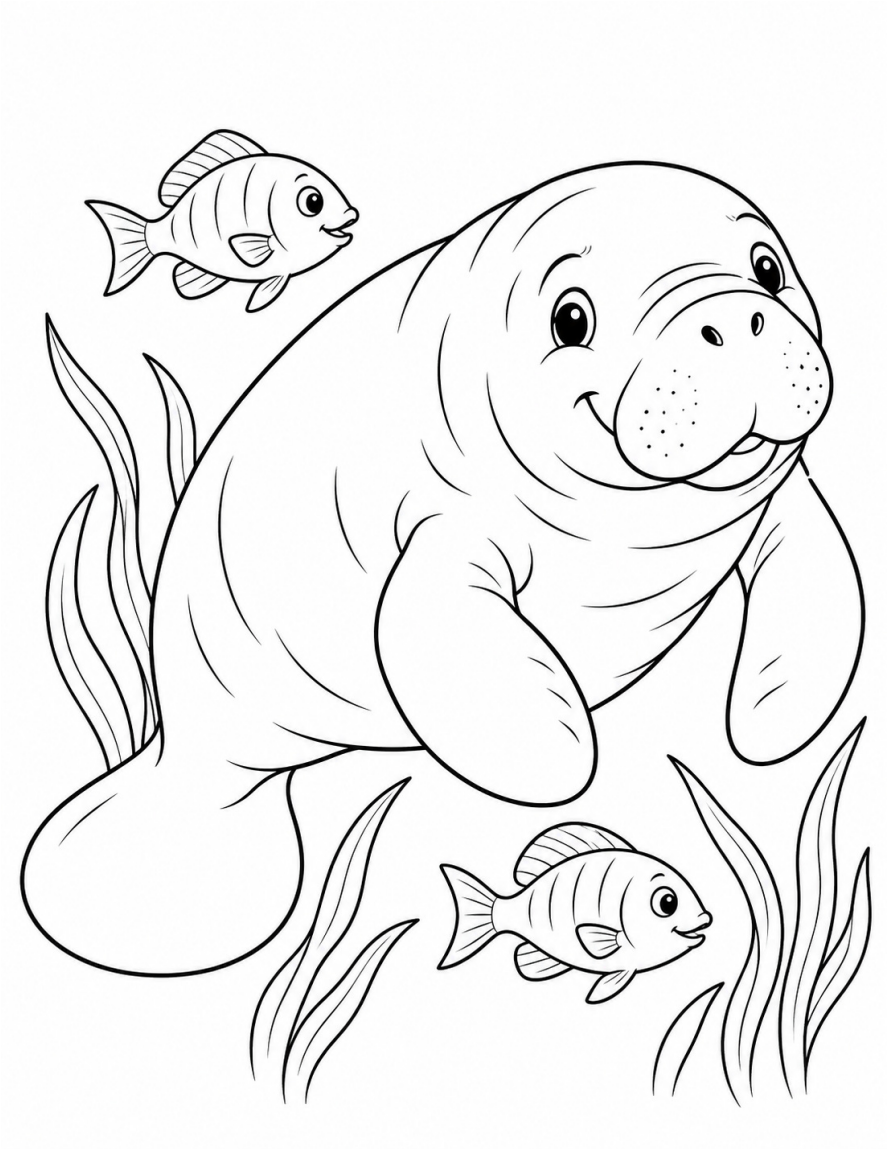
4 + 3

5 + 2 = ___ 8 - 3 = ___

COLOR AND NOTICE AGES 4-6

The paddle tail grazer

Color the friendly manatee. Trace its broad tail and find its front flippers.



LOOK AT THE SCENE

A manatee is a mammal that eats aquatic plants. Its broad paddle-shaped tail helps it move through water.

FAMILY ROAD BREAK AGES 4-6

I spy water and wildlife

Choose a picture in this packet. Give a shape clue without saying its name. Take turns guessing.

TRY A CLUE

“I spy long legs and a pointed bill.”
“I spy a broad paddle tail.”
“I spy a building with repeating arches.”

DRAW A NEW CLUE

ONE MORE ROUND

Tell a shared story using turtle, island and rain. Each person adds one sentence.

Keep the driver free to concentrate.

REMEMBER AND SHARE **AGES 4-6**

My three-park treasure

Draw your favorite discovery. Tell someone why you chose it.

A PLACE THAT SURPRISED ME

A CLUE I WANT TO REMEMBER

My new word is

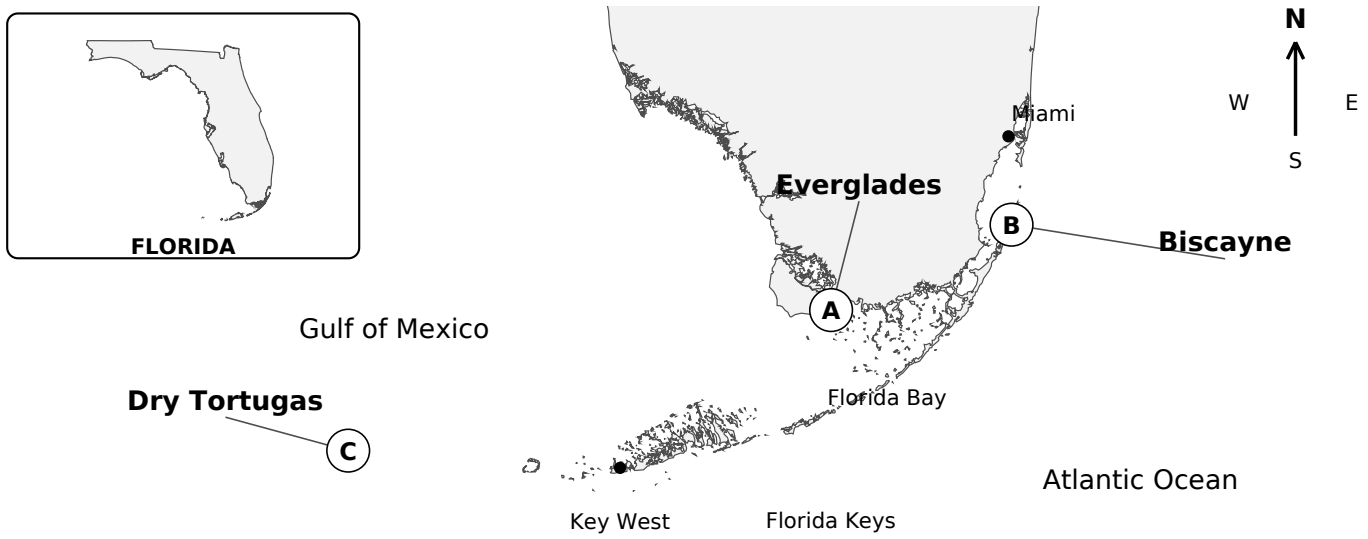
One thing I can explain now is

Show your favorite page to someone in your family.

MEET YOUR PARKS **AGES 7-9**

A peninsula and its islands

A peninsula is land surrounded by water on three sides. South Florida reaches toward a chain of islands called the Keys.



A B C = park locations Small dot = city

FOUR PLACES TO EXPLORE

Everglades: broad wetlands. Biscayne: bay, islands and reefs. Dry Tortugas: small islands west of Key West. Garden Key: the island with Fort Jefferson, inside Dry Tortugas.

Point to the westernmost park. Find the park east of Everglades.

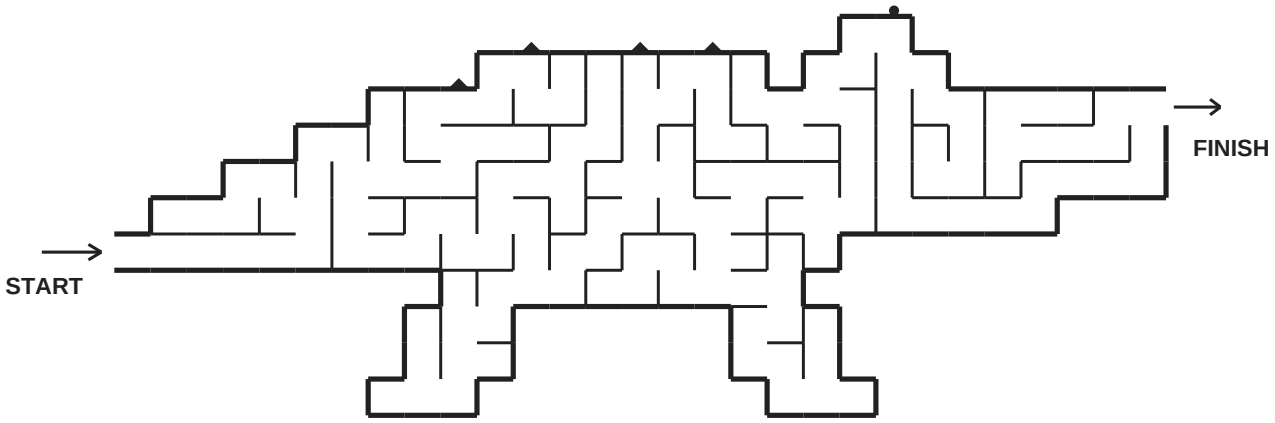
Choose one place above to investigate in this packet.

Answers begin on page 42.

SHAPED MAZE / MODERATE **AGES 7-9**

Alligator route challenge

Look ahead at each fork. Find a route through the alligator from START to FINISH.



A REFUGE IN DRY TIMES

An alligator hole can retain water after shallower ground dries. Fish and other animals may gather there. A change made by one animal can affect many others.

Optional: why might a deeper hole hold water longer?

SEQUENCE AND EXPLAIN **AGES 7-9**

From rain to coastal water

Put the cards in order to trace one water journey through the Everglades. Use cause and effect.

A
Fresh water mixes with coastal salt water.

B
Rain falls on inland marshes.

C
The mixed coastal water is brackish.

D
Water reaches the mangrove coast.

E
Water spreads slowly through sawgrass marshes.

Order: ____ → ____ → ____ → ____ → ____

Which step changes the water mixture? Explain.

Brackish means a mixture of fresh water and salt water.

BUILD A FOOD WEB AGES 7-9

Energy in shallow water

Algae and seagrass use sunlight. Adult green turtles eat both. Sailfin mollies eat algae; snowy egrets eat mollies. Manatees eat seagrass. Feeding arrows point toward the eater.

BUILD THE CONNECTIONS
Draw two sunlight arrows and five feeding arrows using the facts above.

SUN

ALGAE

GREEN TURTLE

SEAGRASS

SAILFIN MOLLY

SNOWY EGRET

MANATEE

Trace one linked route through the community.

NOTICE AND CONNECT
Which two animals share algae? Which animal gets energy indirectly from algae through a fish?

COMPARE AND CALCULATE AGES 7-9

Compare water places and numbers

Use the numbers in each story. Show how you know, then compare the two pictured habitats.

1 COMPARE THE MODEL

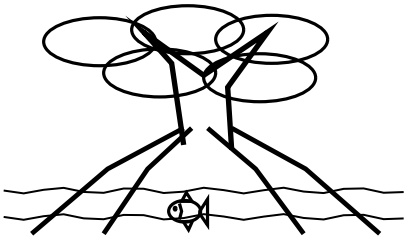
On a 100-square model of Biscayne, 95 squares are water. How many squares are land? Show subtraction.

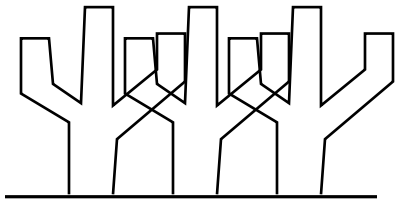
2 A FAMILY STOP

A family watches for 18 minutes and sketches for 16. How many minutes is that altogether?

3 TIME TO EXPLORE

You have 90 minutes at a stop. The first two activities take 34 minutes. How much time remains?





NOTICE AND CONNECT

Mangroves are trees; reef-building corals are animals. Which pictured habitat has arching roots? How do both offer shelter?

WORD SEARCH AND SORT **AGES 7-9**

Hidden in the wetlands

Find eight words running right, down or diagonally down-right. Sort each word into one of the three groups below.

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

ALLIGATOR ANHINGA SAWGRASS WETLAND
MANGROVE TURTLE WATER EGRET

ANIMALS: _____

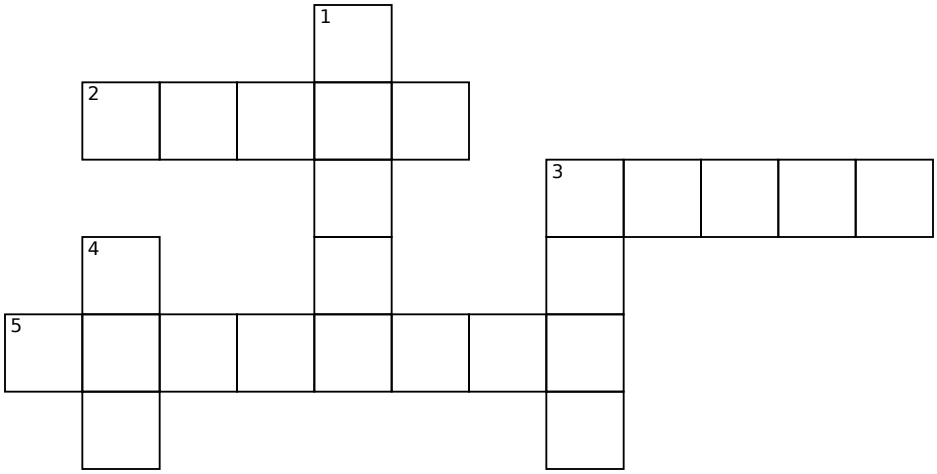
PLANTS: _____

WATER AND HABITAT: _____

CROSSWORD DISCOVERY **AGES 7-9**

Words of bay and reef

Use the clues and discoveries in this packet. Put one letter in each square. Check every crossing.



ACROSS

2. A reef-building animal with types called brain and staghorn. (5)

3. Tree parts that take in water and help anchor the plant. (5)

5. A salt-tolerant coastal tree. (8)

DOWN

1. It covers about 95% of Biscayne. (5)

3. An underwater structure built partly by coral animals. (4)

4. Biscayne ___ lies between the mainland and the islands. (3)

DEDUCE FROM EVIDENCE AGES 7-9

The missing habitat labels

Four field notes A-D lost their labels. Each describes a different habitat. Use every clue to restore the names.

FOUR HABITATS

MARSH: wet ground with grasses and sedges. MANGROVE: coastal trees with prop roots. SEAGRASS: underwater flowering plants. CORAL REEF: a structure built partly by animals.

1. A and C are entirely underwater in these descriptions.

2. B has trees with arching roots.

3. D has sawgrass growing above wet ground.

4. C has tiny animal builders, not flowering plants.

Note	Habitat name	Clue that helped
A		
B		
C		
D		

Explain how identifying B and D helped you solve A.

HISTORY CARD MIX-UP AGES 7-9

Put the islands in order

These are different moments in the story of Florida’s parks. Number the cards from earliest to latest; the dates help.

A / 1992
Dry Tortugas becomes a national park.

B / 1846
Work begins on Fort Jefferson.

C / 1980
Biscayne becomes a national park.

D / 1947
Everglades National Park is dedicated.

Earliest ____ → ____ → ____ → ____ latest

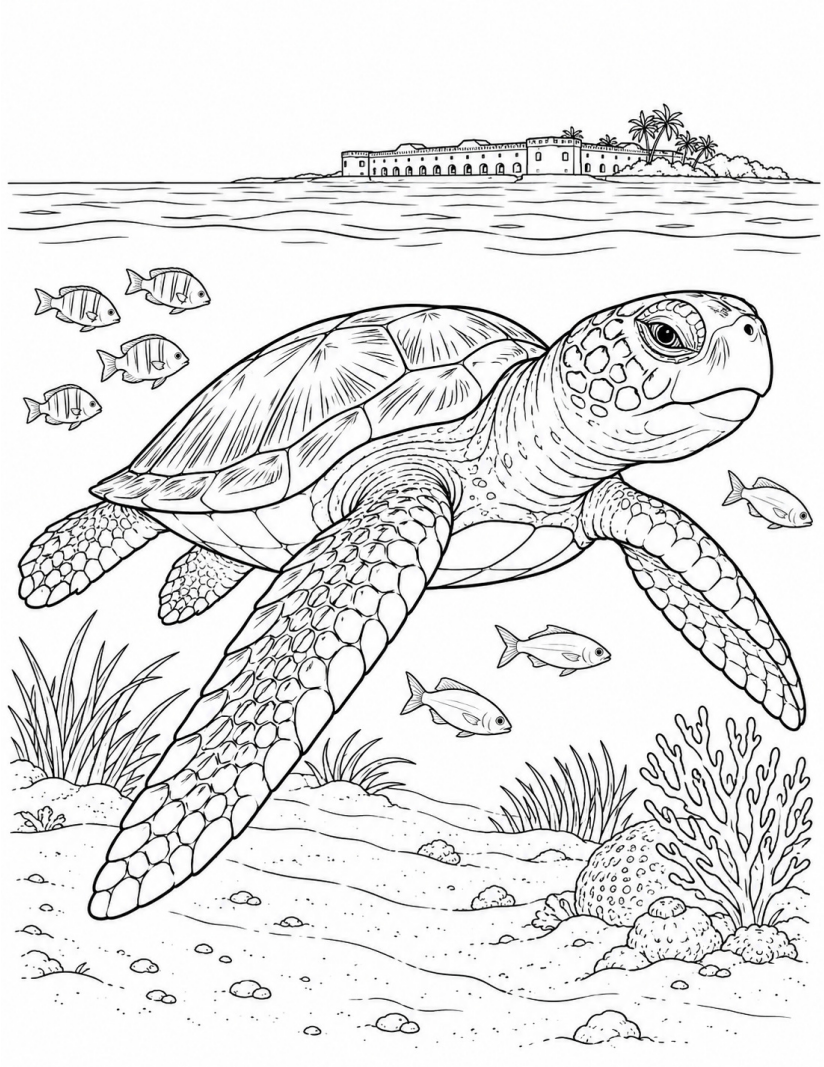
How many years from the first date to the last? Show subtraction.

HISTORY CONTINUES
Seminole and Miccosukee people have continuing Everglades connections. Why is a park date not the beginning of human history?

ILLUSTRATED INVESTIGATION **AGES 7-9**

A turtle built to travel

Loggerhead sea turtles have large heads and powerful jaws. Their front flippers help propel them through the water.



Circle the front flippers. Draw an arrow showing a swimming direction. Color the shell’s repeating sections.

COMPARE

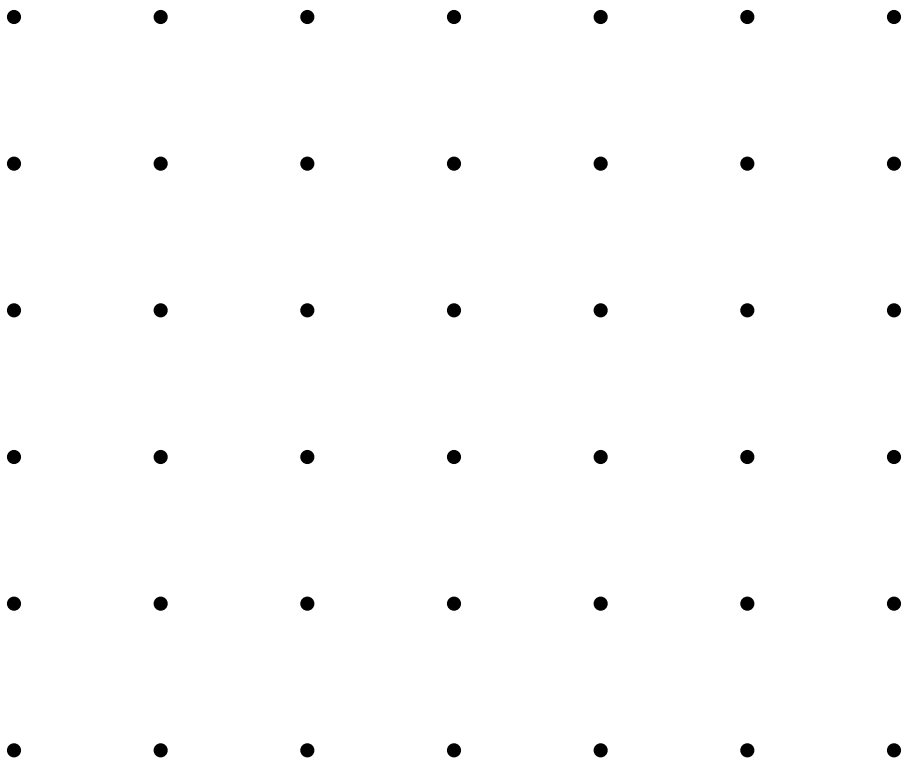
A manatee has a paddle-shaped tail. How is this turtle’s body different? Tell someone, or sketch your answer.

FAMILY ROAD BREAK AGES 7-9

Dots and boxes on the road

Two players connect neighboring dots horizontally or vertically. Complete a box? Add your initial and take another turn. Most boxes wins; equal scores tie.

Player initials: ____ and ____



How many boxes can be claimed? ____

Final score: ____ to ____

A MEMORY ROUND

Name a discovery. The next person repeats it and adds another. How long can your shared list grow?

SHARE YOUR DISCOVERIES AGES 7-9

A page worth remembering

Choose any park in this packet. Make a small field-note page for someone who has not been there.

ONE PLACE OR LIVING THING

Park: _____ New word: _____

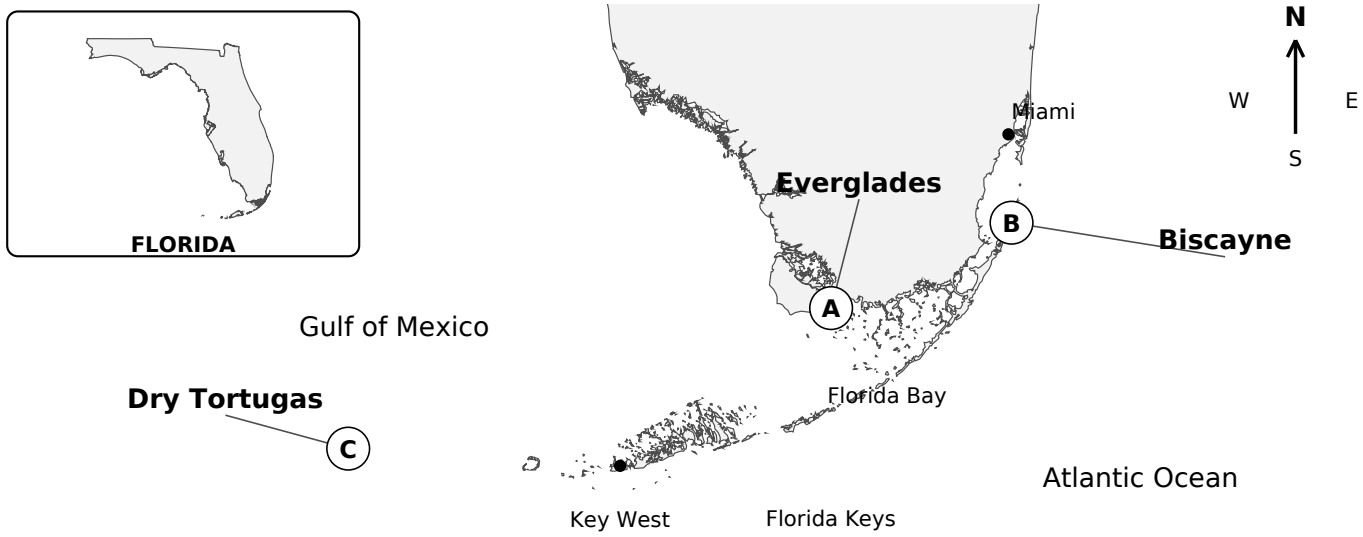
YOUR MINI-GUIDE

Add one true fact, one question and one thing you would like to look for. Drawing, talking and writing all count.

CHOOSE A PLACE TO INVESTIGATE **AGES 10+**

Three parks, connected water

Wetlands, coastal bays and islands form linked water stories. Brackish means fresh and salt water mixed. A cistern is a tank for collected rainwater.



A B C = park locations Small dot = city

FOUR PLACES TO EXPLORE

Everglades: broad wetlands. Biscayne: bay, islands and reefs. Dry Tortugas: islands west of Key West; tortugas means turtles. Garden Key: the island with Fort Jefferson, inside Dry Tortugas.

Point to the westernmost park. Find the park east of Everglades.

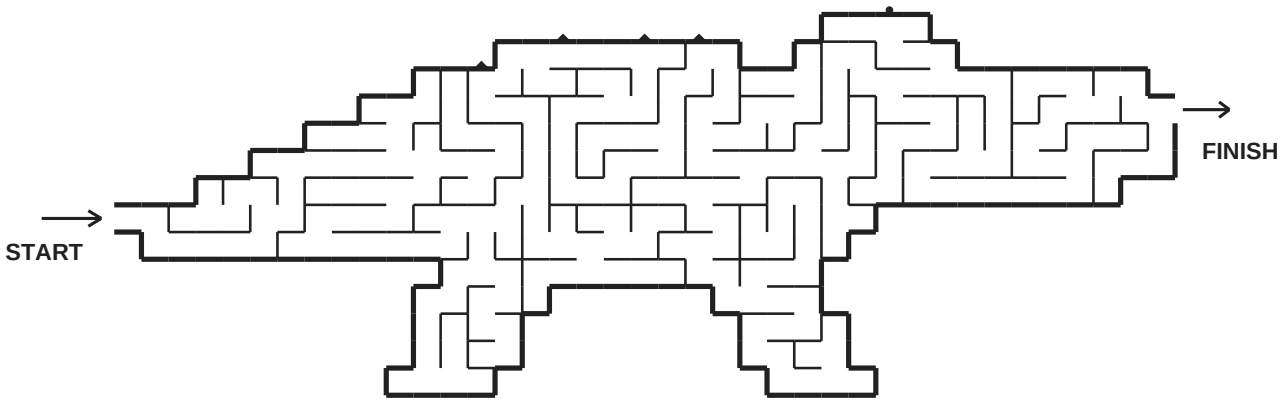
Choose one place above to investigate in this packet.

Answers begin on page 45.

SHAPED MAZE / CHALLENGING **AGES 10+**

The long alligator passage

Find a route from START to FINISH. Study the branches before choosing; a promising direction can lead to a dead end.



ENGINEERING A WETLAND

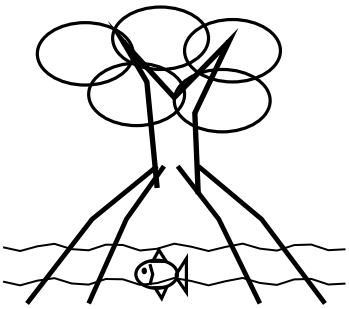
Alligator holes change local water conditions. They can provide dry-season refuges for other animals and places where predators find prey.

Optional: name one benefit and one risk for fish gathering in a water hole.

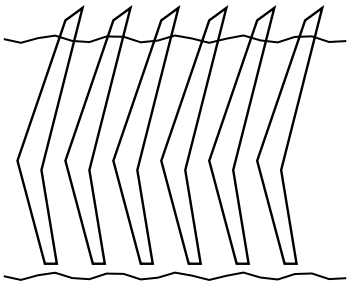
ILLUSTRATED SCIENCE MYSTERY **AGES 10+**

The habitat label mix up

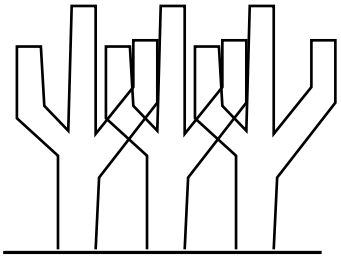
Match three cards to the scenes. Cross out the one false card. Use both picture evidence and the facts you learned.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

A | SCENE ____
Tiny animal builders produce hard skeletons that help make a reef.

B | SCENE ____
A flowering plant grows entirely underwater with blades and roots.

C | SCENE ____
A coral reef is made only by flowering plants.

D | SCENE ____
A coastal tree makes shelter among arching prop roots.

ONE MORE CLUE
Living structures can create shelter for other organisms. Which two scenes could give a small fish places to hide? Explain.

BUILD AND QUESTION A FOOD WEB AGES 10+

Energy in shallow water

Algae and seagrass use sunlight. Adult green turtles eat both. Sailfin mollies eat algae; snowy egrets eat mollies. Manatees eat seagrass. Feeding arrows point toward the eater.

BUILD THE CONNECTIONS
Draw five feeding arrows using the facts above.

ALGAE

GREEN TURTLE

SEAGRASS

SAILFIN MOLLY

SNOWY EGRET

MANATEE

Trace one linked route through the community.

EVIDENCE OR OVERREACH
“Every animal must lose the same number if algae decline.” Does this web prove that? YES / NO. Name one other influence.

COMPARE THE CLUES AGES 10+

Two bills two ways to feed

Roseate spoonbills sweep broad bills through shallow water to find prey. Egrets use pointed bills to catch small animals. Compare shape and movement.



A SPOONBILL



B EGRET

CIRCLE A OR B

1. Which bill is broad at its tip? A / B
2. Which bird uses a pointed bill? A / B
3. Does bill shape alone prove both birds eat identical prey? YES / NO

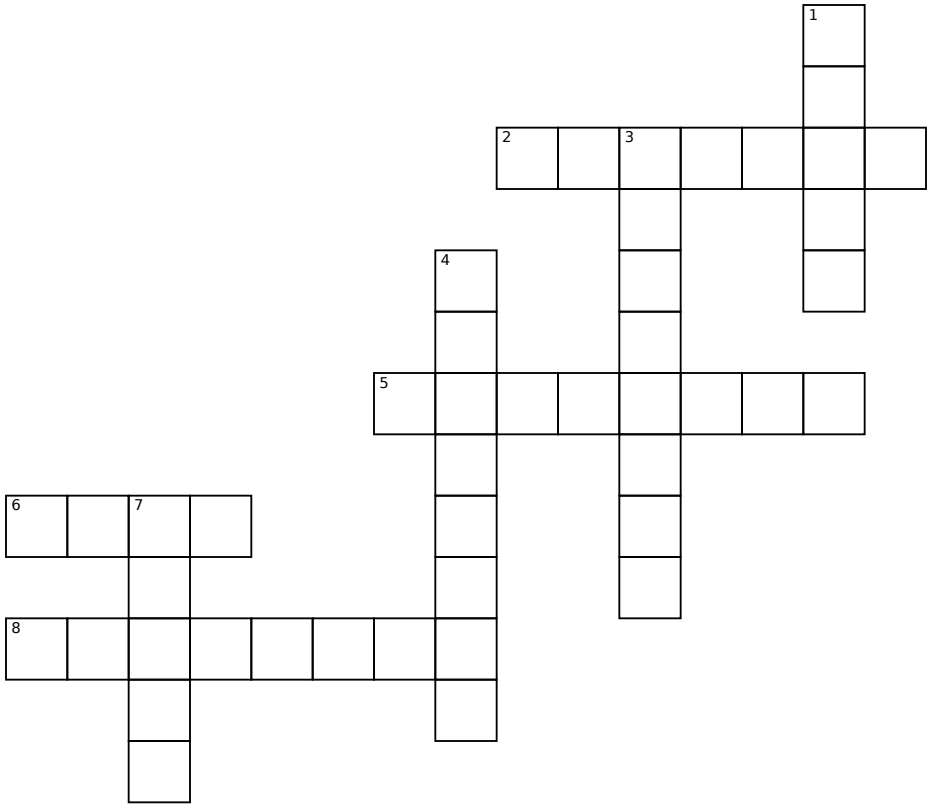
ONE MORE STUDY CLUE

Add a sweeping arrow beside A and a short striking arrow beside B. Optional: what feeding observations would help test whether their diets overlap?

CROSSWORD DISCOVERY **AGES 10+**

Words of water and wildlife

Use the clues and discoveries in this packet. Put one letter in each square. Check every crossing.



ACROSS

2. A tank that stores collected rainwater. (7)

5. A coastal tree with roots that shelter young animals. (8)

6. A large underwater habitat built partly by coral. (4)

8. The Spanish word for turtles in a park name. (8)

DOWN

1. Tiny animal whose colonies help build reefs. (5)

3. An underwater flowering plant. (8)

4. Water that mixes fresh and salt water. (8)

7. A wading bird with a pointed bill. (5)

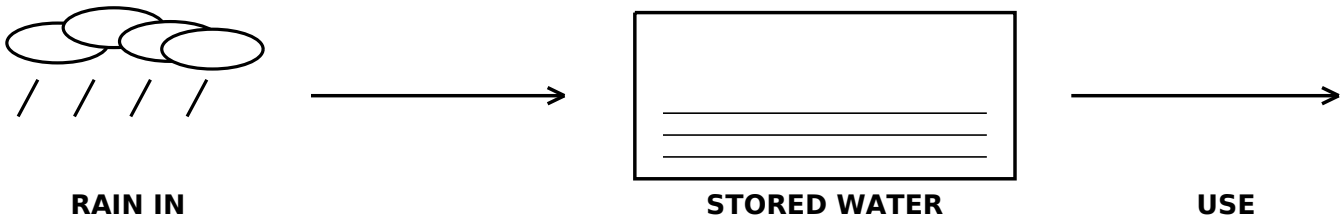
MULTI STEP CHANGING MODEL AGES 10+

The island water keeper

A cistern stores collected rainwater. Track the changing water supply in this five-round model.

WATER MODEL RULES

Start with 18 liters. Each round rain adds 12 liters, then use 9 liters. Repeat for rounds 1-4. Round 5 brings only 3 liters of rain; use is still 9. Record every stage.



Round	Before rain	After rain	After use
Start	18	-	-
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

1. What is the net change in each of rounds 1-4? ____

2. How much remains after round 5? ____

3. Why does the last round reverse the earlier pattern?

Follow water solve a message

Compare a natural water route with a built rainwater route. Then decode a message without looking at the answers.

TWO CONNECTED ROUTES

Route A: rain → shallow marsh → mangrove coast → bay.
Route B: rain → fort roof → gutter → cistern.

1. Which route ends in a storage tank? ____

2. Which part of Route B carries water from roof to tank?

DECODE A DISCOVERY

Each coded letter is 4 places AFTER its real letter. Move back 4 to read it. Wrap around the alphabet. Spaces stay in place.

AEXIV GSRRIGXW TPEGIW

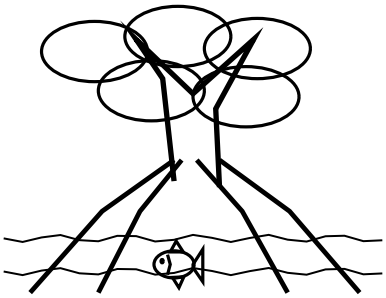
Explain how the message connects to one route.

MATCH EXHIBITS AND LABELS **AGES 10+**

The exhibit labels got mixed

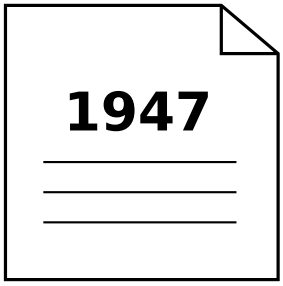
Read the three exhibits. Match each to its best label, then choose a headline that fits the whole story.

A



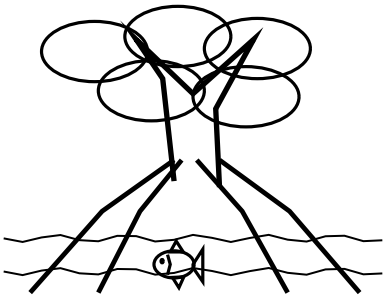
People knew and used South Florida long before national parks existed.

B



Everglades National Park was dedicated in 1947.

C



Seminole and Miccosukee communities continue their Everglades relationships.

LABELS

1 Continuing relationships
2 Human connections before park designation
3 A national park dedication

Exhibit A → label ____ B → label ____ C → label ____

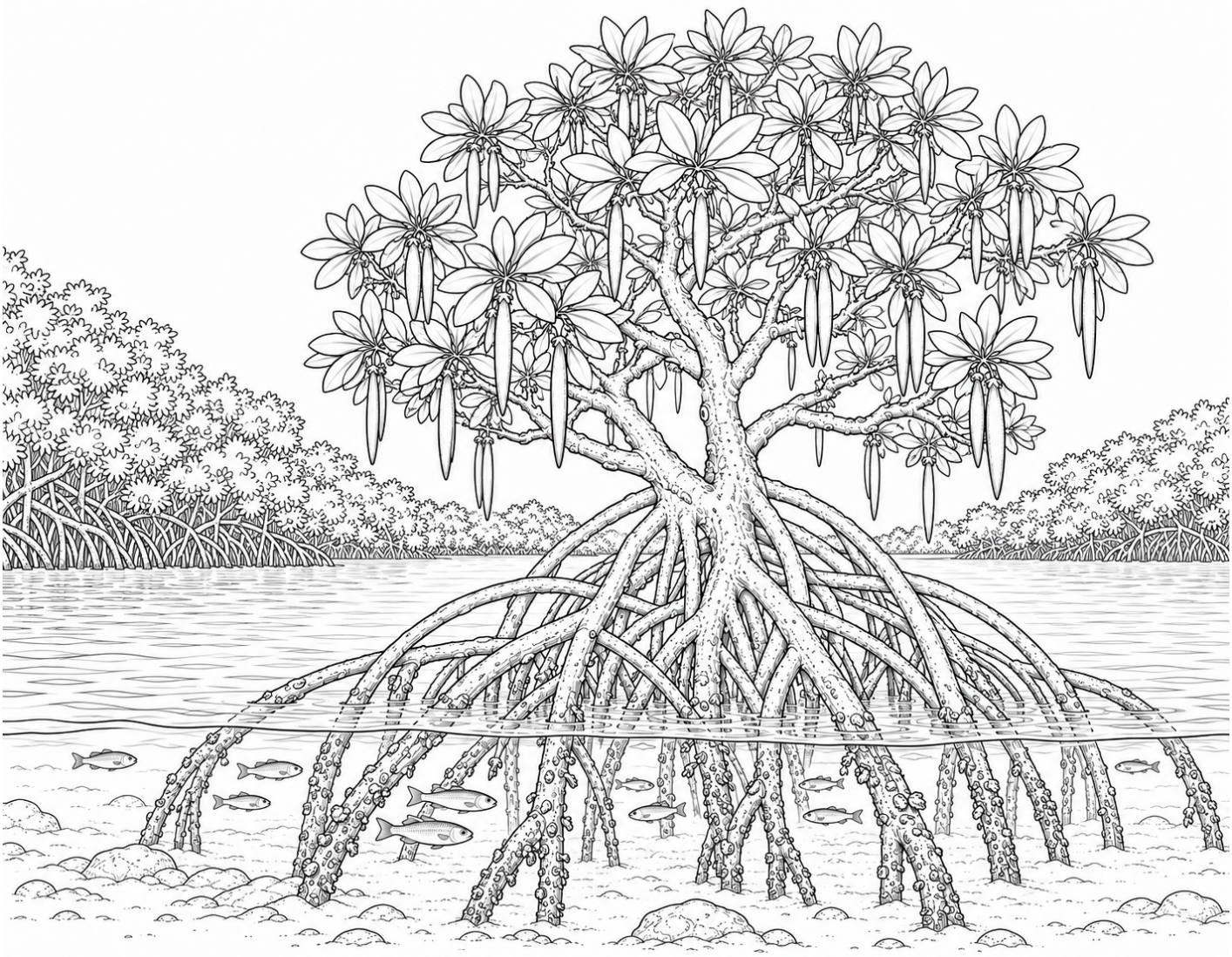
CHOOSE THE HEADLINE

Circle the best fit: HISTORY BEGINS WITH THE PARK / A LONG PAST AND CONTINUING CONNECTIONS

STRUCTURE AND PROCESS **AGES 10+**

A living shoreline study

Color this naturalistic mangrove study. Use visible structures to explain how a tree can change a shoreline habitat.



LABEL AND EXPLAIN

Label a leaf, arching prop root and long hanging propagule (a developing young plant). Add a small arrow toward a fish shelter. Explain how roots offer spaces among them.

FAMILIAR ROAD BREAK AGES 10+

An island number rest stop

Place 1-9 in every row, column and bold 3 by 3 box. Each number appears once in each. This is a quiet independent break.

	4		1		6	2		
	8	5		9	7			
		3		5				
8	3			7	4	1	9	
4				6			3	
	9					4	5	7
	2		7	1		3	6	
	7		6			5		
3		8				9		

A WAY IN

Find a row, column or box with few gaps. List its missing numbers. Use the crossing row and column to rule numbers out. Use pencil.

Afterward, teach someone one deduction you made without guessing.

CONNECT AND SHARE AGES 10+

Make a discovery card

Choose one destination in this packet. Make a page that makes someone else want to explore it.

A LABELED ILLUSTRATION OF YOUR DISCOVERY

CHOOSE TWO

A surprising fact / a solved mystery / a connection between water and life / a person’s contribution / a question worth investigating.

PASS IT ON

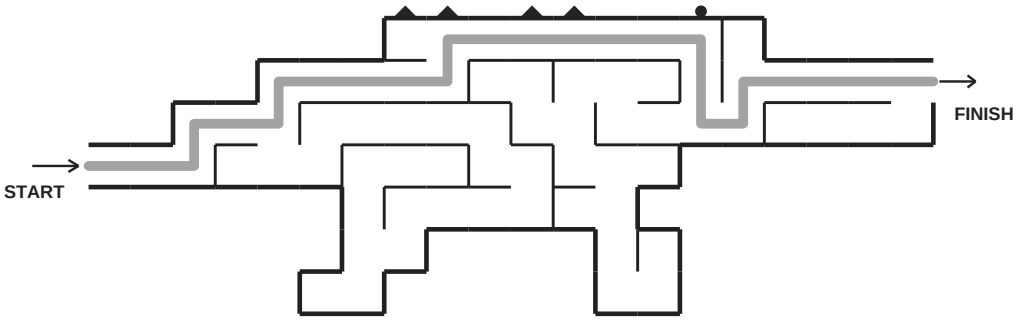
Show your card. Ask the reader which detail made them curious.

ANSWER KEY 1 OF 3 AGES 4-6

Routes and first discoveries

Try a hint first. Point to evidence in the activity before reading its answer.

Page 4 Through the alligator



Page 3 Four places to explore

Dry Tortugas is westernmost. Biscayne is east of Everglades. Garden Key, home to Fort Jefferson, is part of Dry Tortugas. Any of the four places is a valid choice.

Page 5 A patient marsh hunter

Two legs are visible. A long pointed bill catches prey; long legs let the egret wade. Coloring choices are open.

Page 6 Follow a drop

B-D-A-C. Numbers: A=3, B=1, C=4, D=2. Rain feeds shallow marsh flow that can continue toward coastal waters.

ANSWER KEY 2 OF 3 AGES 4-6

Words models and evidence

Check every crossing, calculation and clue. Several thoughtful explanations may fit the evidence.

Page 7 Four clues to water places

Tree C; clouds A; bay D; marsh B. The flow arrow goes from rain toward the marsh water.

Page 8 Who eats what in the water

Three food pictures. Seagrass → manatee; fish and shrimp → great egret. Circle seagrass, the plant.

Page 9 Island picture patterns

Both next pictures are shells. The second row repeats leaf, leaf, shell. Two pairs make 4 shells.

Page 10 People and a living wetland

LONG AGO is earliest. Circle TODAY. Care ideas vary. A park date does not begin the human story; living communities remain part of the present.

ANSWER KEY 3 OF 3 AGES 4-6

People pictures and reflection

Use the activity page numbers shown below. Open drawings and family conversations have many good answers.

Page 11 Build an island discovery

4 + 3 = 7 shells. 5 + 2 = 7. 8 - 3 = 5. Fort Jefferson is on Garden Key; tortugas means turtles.

Page 12 The paddle tail grazer

The broad rounded tail is at the back; front flippers are beside the body. Manatees eat aquatic plants. Coloring choices are open.

Page 13 I spy water and wildlife

Possible answers: egret; manatee; Fort Jefferson. Clues should describe a visible shape without naming it. Shared stories vary.

Page 14 My three-park treasure

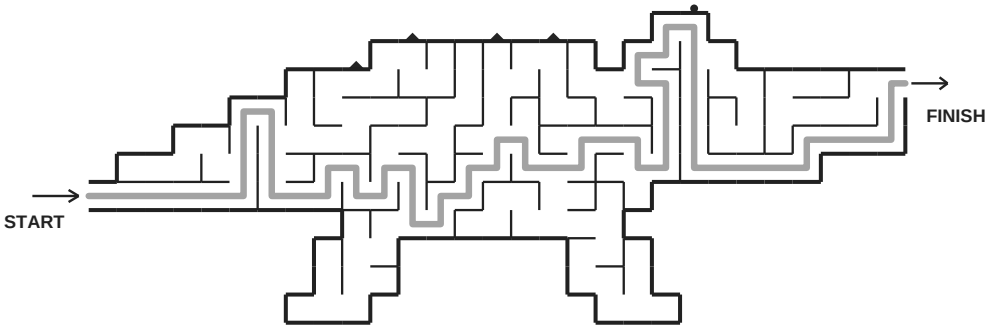
Open-ended. Look for a drawing and a spoken or written connection to this packet. A child can teach a word such as mangrove, graze, marsh or turtle.

ANSWER KEY 1 OF 3 AGES 7-9

Routes and first discoveries

Try a hint first. Point to evidence in the activity before reading its answer.

Page 16 Alligator route challenge



Page 15 A peninsula and its islands

Dry Tortugas is westernmost. Biscayne is east of Everglades. Garden Key, home to Fort Jefferson, is part of Dry Tortugas. Any of the four places is a valid choice.

Page 17 From rain to coastal water

B-E-D-A-C. Rain feeds the marsh, water spreads and reaches the coast, then mixes with salt water. Step A changes the mixture; the result is brackish water.

Page 18 Energy in shallow water

Sun → algae and seagrass. Algae → adult green turtle and sailfin molly; sailfin molly → snowy egret; seagrass → manatee and green turtle. Green turtle and molly share algae; egret receives its energy indirectly through the molly.

ANSWER KEY 2 OF 3 **AGES 7-9**

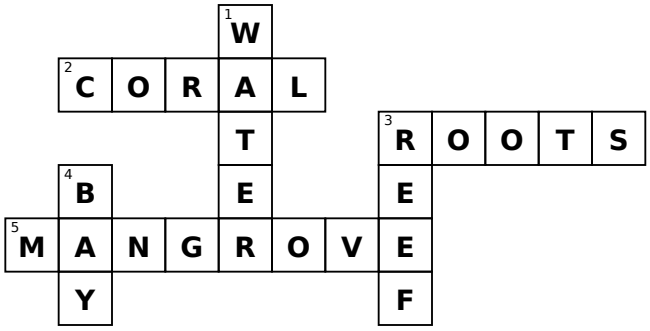
Words models and evidence

Check every crossing, calculation and clue. Several thoughtful explanations may fit the evidence.

Page 20 Hidden in the wetlands

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

Page 21 Words of bay and reef



Page 19 Compare water places and numbers

100 - 95 = 5 land squares. 18 + 16 = 34 minutes. 90 - 34 = 56 minutes. Mangroves have arching roots. Roots and reef structures provide shelter spaces.

Page 22 The missing habitat labels

A SEAGRASS; B MANGROVE; C CORAL REEF; D MARSH. B is fixed by trees and roots; D by sawgrass. C has animal builders, leaving seagrass for A.

Page 20 Hidden in the wetlands

Animals: ALLIGATOR, ANHINGA, TURTLE, EGRET. Plants: SAWGRASS, MANGROVE. Water and habitat: WATER, WETLAND. Grid highlights show the word locations.

ANSWER KEY 3 OF 3 AGES 7-9

People pictures and reflection

Use the activity page numbers shown below. Open drawings and family conversations have many good answers.

Page 23 Put the islands in order

B-D-C-A: 1846, 1947, 1980, 1992. 1992 - 1846 = 146 years. These dates concern construction and federal parks, not the start of people’s relationships with the land.

Page 24 A turtle built to travel

Front flippers are the long pair near the head. A forward arrow can point toward the head. The turtle has a shell and flippers; a manatee has a paddle tail and no shell.

Page 25 Dots and boxes on the road

5 × 6 = 30 boxes. Final scores total 30. Completing a box gives another turn. Winners and memory stories depend on play.

Page 26 A page worth remembering

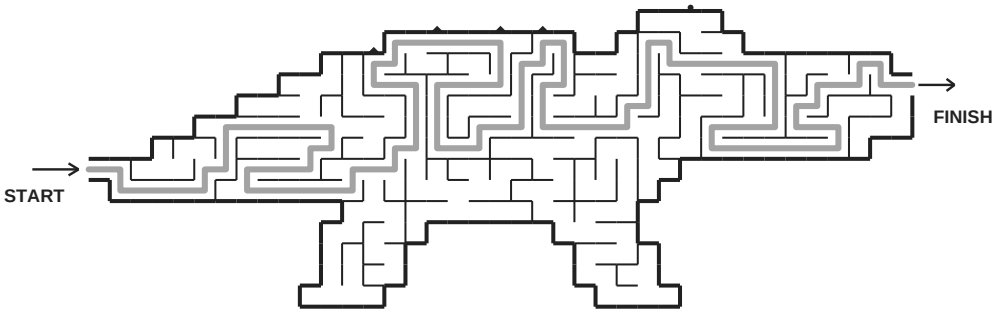
Open-ended. A useful mini-guide includes an identifiable park, a true fact, an honest question and something to look for. No actual wildlife sighting is required.

ANSWER KEY 1 OF 3 AGES 10+

Routes and first discoveries

Try a hint first. Point to evidence in the activity before reading its answer.

Page 28 The long alligator passage



Page 27 Three parks, connected water

Dry Tortugas is westernmost. Biscayne is east of Everglades. Garden Key, home to Fort Jefferson, is part of Dry Tortugas. Any of the four places is a valid choice.

Page 29 The habitat label mix up

A → scene 3 coral reef; B → scene 2 seagrass; D → scene 1 mangrove. Cross out C: corals are animals. All three can provide fish shelter; any two with a sensible explanation work.

Page 30 Energy in shallow water

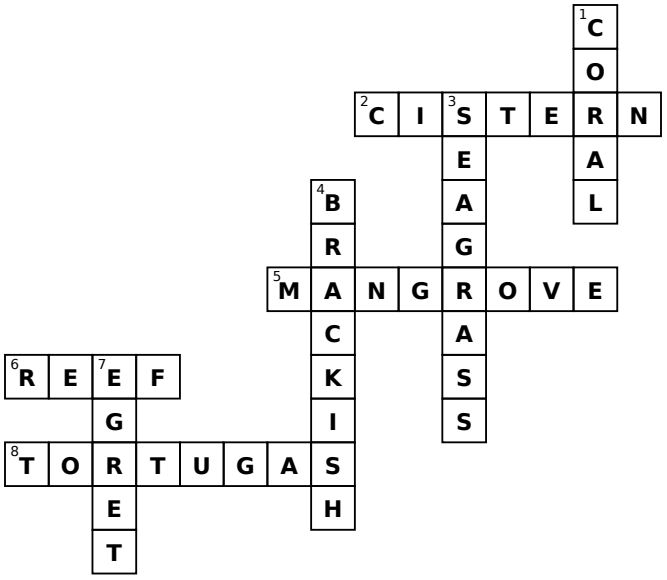
Algae → adult green turtle and sailfin molly; sailfin molly → snowy egret; seagrass → manatee and green turtle. No. Links do not predict exact population changes. Weather, other foods and movement can matter.

ANSWER KEY 2 OF 3 **AGES 10+**

Words models and evidence

Check every crossing, calculation and clue. Several thoughtful explanations may fit the evidence.

Page 32 Words of water and wildlife



Page 31 Two bills two ways to feed

1 A; 2 B; 3 NO. A sweeping arrow moves side to side; a striking arrow points toward prey. Observe identified prey repeatedly; shape alone cannot establish identical diets.

Page 33 The island water keeper

Round 1:18,30,21. Round 2:21,33,24. Round 3:24,36,27. Round 4:27,39,30. Round 5:30,33,24. First four rounds gain 3 L each; final 24 L. Last round adds 3 but uses 9, so loses 6 L.

Page 34 Follow water solve a message

Route B ends in a cistern. The gutter carries roof water toward the tank. Shift each coded letter back 4: WATER CONNECTS PLACES. Both routes link places by moving water.

ANSWER KEY 3 OF 3 **AGES 10+**

People pictures and reflection

Use the activity page numbers shown below. Open drawings and family conversations have many good answers.

Page 37 An island number rest stop

7	4	9	1	3	6	2	8	5
2	8	5	4	9	7	6	1	3
6	1	3	8	5	2	7	4	9
8	3	2	5	7	4	1	9	6
4	5	7	9	6	1	8	3	2
1	9	6	3	2	8	4	5	7
5	2	4	7	1	9	3	6	8
9	7	1	6	8	3	5	2	4
3	6	8	2	4	5	9	7	1

Page 35 The exhibit labels got mixed

A → 2; B → 3; C → 1. A LONG PAST AND CONTINUING CONNECTIONS is the better headline. Park designation is one event in a much longer human story.

Page 36 A living shoreline study

Label oval leaves, arching prop roots and long hanging propagules (developing young plants). Fish can shelter among the roots. Labels and arrows should touch visible features.

Page 37 An island number rest stop

The completed grid is shown. Each row, column and bold box has 1-9 exactly once. Exhaustive search verifies one solution.

Page 38 Make a discovery card

Open-ended. Check that the card names a destination and uses accurate packet evidence. An unanswered question is welcome; an invented fact is not.

For the grown-ups

The aim is a child choosing another page because it looks interesting, then discovering something about a real destination.

LET PICTURES DO SOME TEACHING

Read a young explorer’s short direction once, then let them point, trace or talk. Accept spoken answers. Older children can skip optional explanations and still complete the central puzzle.

USE THE ANSWERS LIGHTLY

Offer a small hint before showing the whole answer. A maze route is a check, not a race. Different drawing and conversation responses can be equally thoughtful.

REAL PLACES, RESPECTFUL VISITS

Follow current park signs, closures and ranger guidance. Leave wildlife, nests, plants and shells undisturbed. Watch from a safe distance. Only passengers use pages while traveling.

BEFORE YOU PRINT

Print US Letter at actual size, or fit to A4. Use pencil, crayons and a clipboard. Single-sided sheets are easiest to share. Every page works without color, a phone or a live wildlife sighting.

Separate packets: activities 1-12, answers 13-15 and shared guidance and sources 16-18.

SOURCE NOTES / CHECKED OCTOBER 2026 FAMILY GUIDE

Water, wildlife and sources

Core destination facts come from primary park and community sources. These references support the learning content, not current travel conditions.

EVERGLADES / WATER AND WILDLIFE

NPS: Grasses; Sawgrass Prairie; American Alligator; Park Establishment.
www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/grasses.htm
www.nps.gov/ever/learn/kidsyouth/sawgrass-prairie.htm
www.nps.gov/ever/learn/nature/alligator.htm
www.nps.gov/ever/learn/historyculture/parkestablish.htm

BISCAYNE / LIVING HABITATS

NPS: Biscayne Bay; Mangroves; Coral Reefs.
www.nps.gov/bisc/learn/nature/biscaynebay.htm
www.nps.gov/bisc/learn/nature/mangroves.htm
www.nps.gov/bisc/learn/nature/coralreefs.htm

DRY TORTUGAS / ISLANDS AND TURTLES

NPS: History & Culture; Sea Turtles; Nature.
www.nps.gov/drto/learn/historyculture/index.htm
www.nps.gov/drto/learn/nature/sea-turtles.htm
www.nps.gov/drto/learn/nature/index.htm
Fort history: www.nps.gov/cane/learn/historyculture/from-kentucky-to-the-keys.htm

Food links: NOAA Green Sea Turtle; Florida Museum Sailfin Molly and Seagrasses.
www.oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/green-turtle.html
www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/discover-fish/species-profiles/sailfin-molly/
www.floridamuseum.ufl.edu/southflorida/habitats/seagrasses/importance/

People, maps and making

The book’s park dates are only part of each place’s human story. Living communities and family choices also shape these landscapes.

LIVING COMMUNITIES

Seminole Tribe of Florida: Seminoles and the Land.
www.semtribe.com/culture/seminoles-and-the-land
Miccosukee Indian School: Our History.
www.miccosukeeindianschool.com/our-history

THE JONES FAMILY

NPS: The Joneses of Porgy Key: Arthur and Lancelot.
www.nps.gov/bisc/learn/historyculture/the-joneses-of-porgy-key-page-3.htm
The source package preserves additional dated editorial references.

GEOGRAPHIC OUTLINES

Florida outline: U.S. Census 2025 cartographic boundaries. South Florida shorelines: GSHHG, hosted by NOAA. Park markers: NPS public points of interest; cities: Census Gazetteer. Full source URLs and coordinate extracts are in the editable map-source folder.

ILLUSTRATIONS AND PUZZLES

Original WBF Florida illustrations are retained. Older study variants add a continuous mangrove landscape and naturalistic egret. New diagrams are editable vectors. Mazes have distinct connected passages with increasing decisions. Story quantities are learning models.

Egret foods: Cornell Lab of Ornithology
www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Egret/lifehistory/