Mobile Bay
Activity Book
Coastal Alabama and Mobile Bay: Did you know???

- Mobile Bay has both salt water from the Gulf of Mexico and fresh water from rivers. This body of water where fresh and salty water mix is called an estuary. Many fish, shrimp, and crabs live here.

- The delta is a beautiful place where rivers enter Mobile Bay and flow through marshes, swamps, and bottomland hardwood forests.

- Alabama has a relatively small coastline consisting of approximately 50 miles of beach, but has the fourth largest river system by volume in the United States, an average of 460,000 gallons per second, or 42 billion gallons per day.

- The first people to live around Mobile Bay were Native Americans. The Spanish visited in the early 1500's and named it Bay of the Holy Spirit.

- The famous Battle of Mobile Bay, one of the last major battles of the Civil War, was fought in August of 1864.

- The Mobile Bay estuarine system is located in the center of the northern edge of the Gulf of Mexico and is protected by the long peninsula of Fort Morgan on the east and to the west by Dauphin Island.

- Mobile Bay is approximately 31 miles long with the widest point being about 24 miles across, and the average depth is only 10 feet. A man-made ship channel, 45 feet deep, has been in operation since the 1800's, creating an international seaport for ocean going vessels.

- The white sandy beach of coastal Alabama has the consistency of fine sugar and is made of quartz derived from the erosion of the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains.
Brown pelicans have special air sacs in their chest area that cushion them as they dive into the water from as high as 12-14 feet.
Connect the dots to find a common shore bird.
Bottlenose dolphins are found throughout the Mobile Bay area. This dolphin is the type most frequently seen in captivity.
Can you help this Octopus find its cave?

The common Atlantic octopus is found throughout the Gulf of Mexico. They are a highlight for visitors to the Dauphin Island Estuarium.
Hermit crabs have no shells of their own, so they use the empty shells of snails as their homes. They move into larger shells as they grow.
WHICH TWO ARE THE SAME?
Can you help the pelican find its dinner of fish?
There are seven different types of sea turtles, all are either endangered or threatened. You might find Loggerheads or Kemp’s Ridleys in Mobile Bay.
Color Us!

Common eastern oysters can be found on pilings, or attached to each other, forming reefs. Ribbed mussels are found in salt marshes, just under the
Match the Fish

Draw a line from half a fish on the left to the other half on the right to see what Stingrays, Anchovies, Red Snappers, and Flounders look like.
Sunlight provides energy for all these living things. Producers (such as tiny plants called phytoplankton) absorb the sun's energy and use nutrients from the environment. Consumers (such as sharks, fish, birds) eat plants or other animals. Recyclers (such as crabs) eat dead things and turn them into nutrients.
Mobile Bay “Mad Lib”

Directions: Fill in the mad lib list, then copy your mad libs into the blanks in the story below. Once you have filled in all the blanks, read your completed story for a fun look at how animals and habitats depend on each other for survival.

Mad Lib List:

1. Family member ________________________________
2. Somebody’s name ________________________________
3. Animal ________________________________
4. Color ________________________________
5. Animal ________________________________
6. Things ________________________________
7. Animal ________________________________

I was swimming down Mobile Bay one autumn day with

my _______________ and our friend _______________, who

is a __________________ very early in morning. A large

_________ ___________ started to chase us. I think he

wanted to eat us for breakfast! We ran quickly to get away from

it and hid in some _______________ that were along the shore

of the Bay. We sure were lucky they were there so we could get

away. We found some _______________ while we where

there that we ate for lunch.
Fiddler crabs burrow into the mud of salt marshes. Males have one claw larger than the other. The crab eats with the smaller claw, while the larger claw is used to threaten or fight with other males.
Can you find these items in the picture?

Tire
Fishing Rod
Shovel
Comb

Bottle
Umbrella
Boot
Word Search

Words are found down, across, and diagonally.

Management  Octopus
Conservation  Shrimp
Dauphin Island  Pelican
Alabama  Oyster
Hermit crab  Red snapper
Sea star  Catfish
Sea turtle  Barnacle
Dolphin  Tide
Sand  Crab
It's a Jubilee!

A Jubilee is a regular occurrence along the eastern shore of Mobile Bay. Jubilees occur only in the summer months, usually in the early morning just before sunrise. Under specific conditions, upwelling of oxygen-poor bottom water forces bottom fish and crustaceans ashore. Hundreds of flounder and tubs of crabs can be caught in just a few hours.
Marine Debris

Draw a line from the type of debris (trash) to the time it takes to decompose (go away) in the marine environment.

- Plastic bottle: 200 years
- Apple core: 400 years
- Plastic 6-pack rings: 1 million years
- Waxed milk carton: 450 years
- Aluminum cans: 3 months
- Glass bottles & jars: 2 months
The beaches, rocky shores, marshes, coastal and open oceans are homes to many different plants and animals. Be polite and do not mess up their homes. Take your trash back to your home, just leave footprints in theirs.
More Answers

Which two are the same?

1 & 3
Even More Answers
Regional Activity Books series:


2. Coastal North Carolina Activity Book –


5. Coastal Louisiana Activity Book –

Copies of this material can be downloaded from:

Produced by:
Dr. Susan Baker, NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science
Jenny Cook, Dauphin Island Sea Lab
Dr. John Dindo, Dauphin Island Sea Lab

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