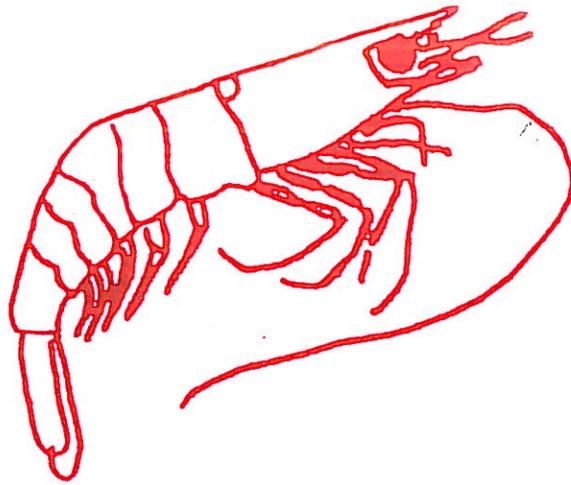


Mobile Bay

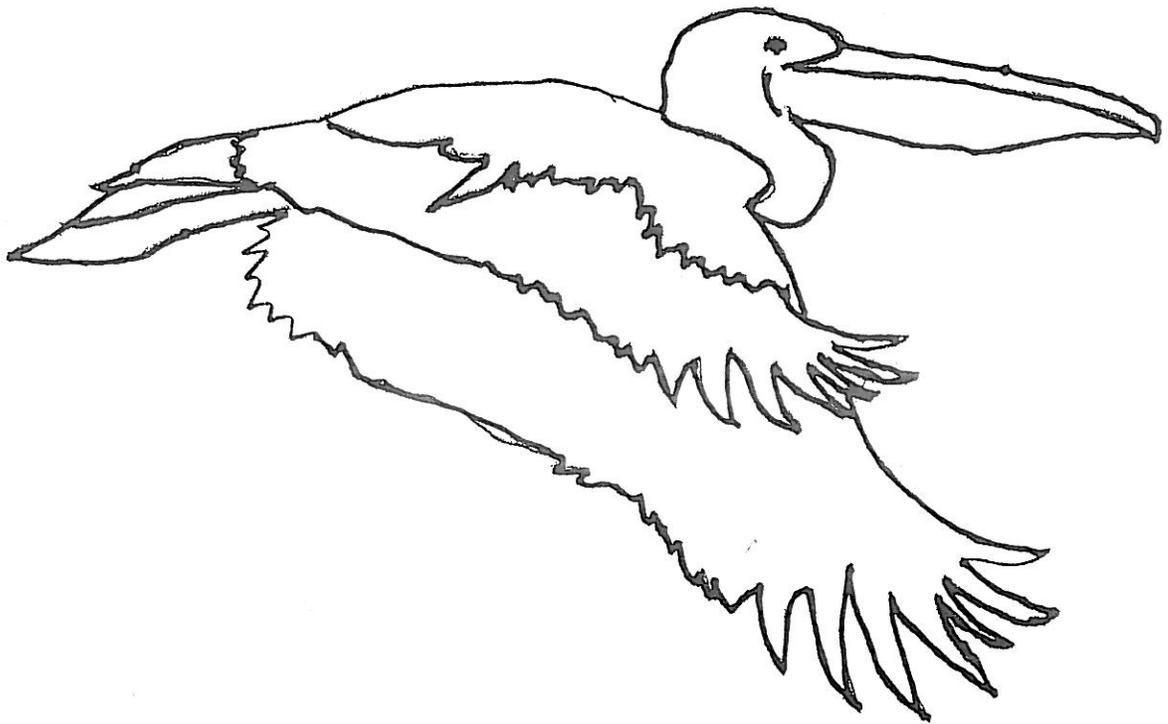
Activity Book



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

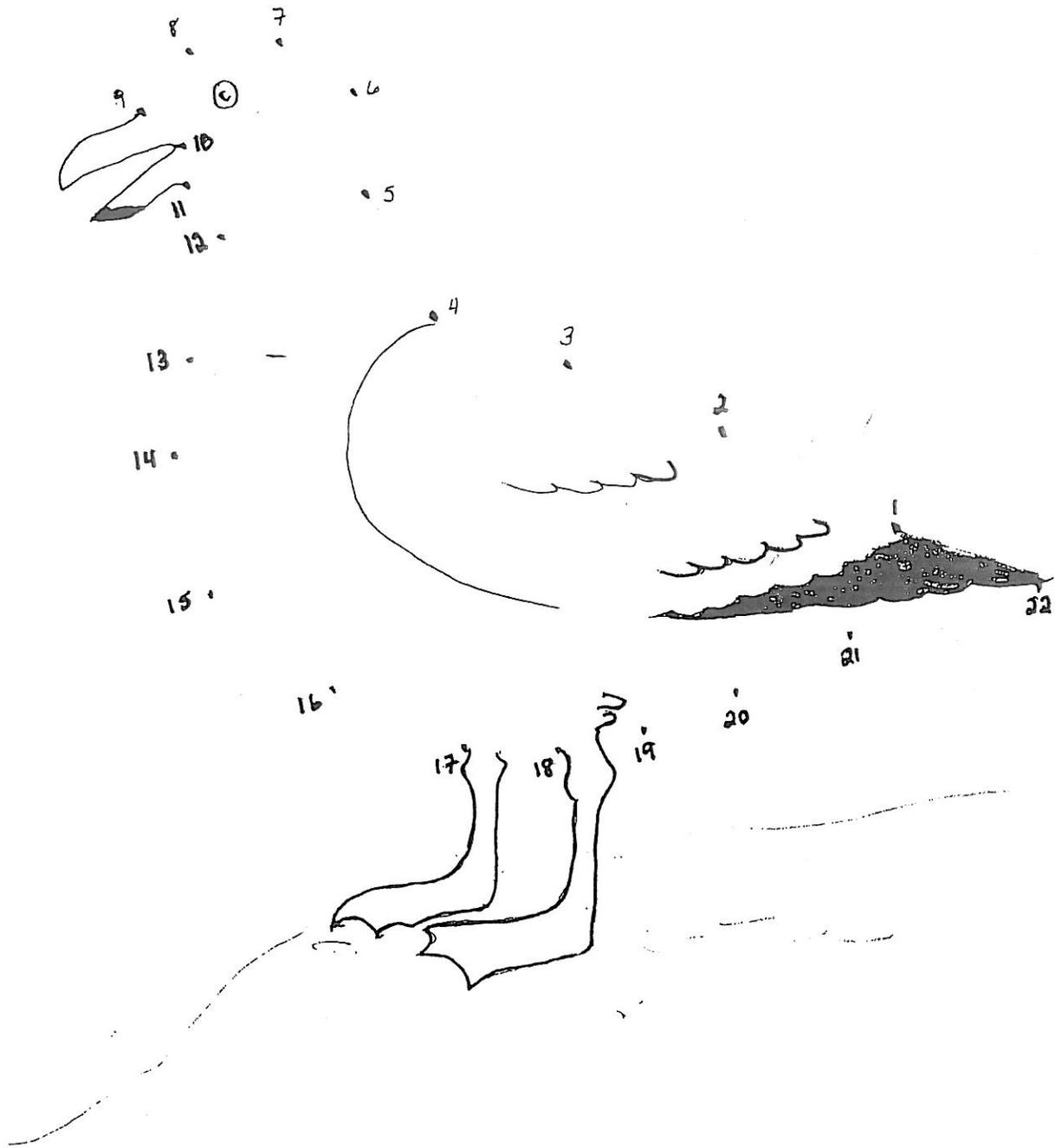
- Mobile Bay has both salt water from the Gulf of Mexico and fresh water from rivers. This body of water where fresh and salty water mix is called an *estuary*. Many fish, shrimp, and crabs live here.
- The delta is a beautiful place where rivers enter Mobile Bay and flow through marshes, swamps, and 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. The average depth is only 10 feet deep. 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.

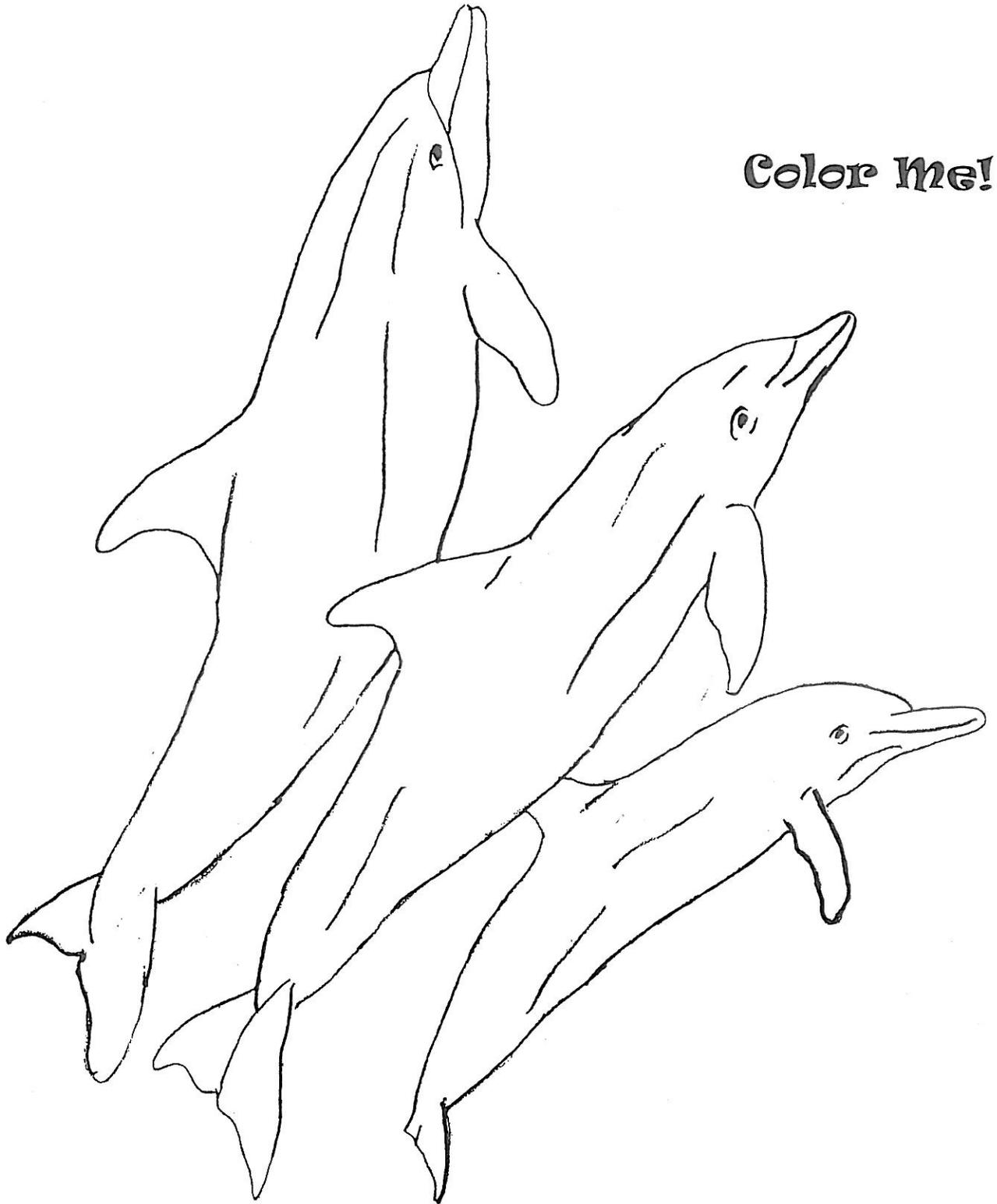
Color Me!



Brown pelicans have special air sacks 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.

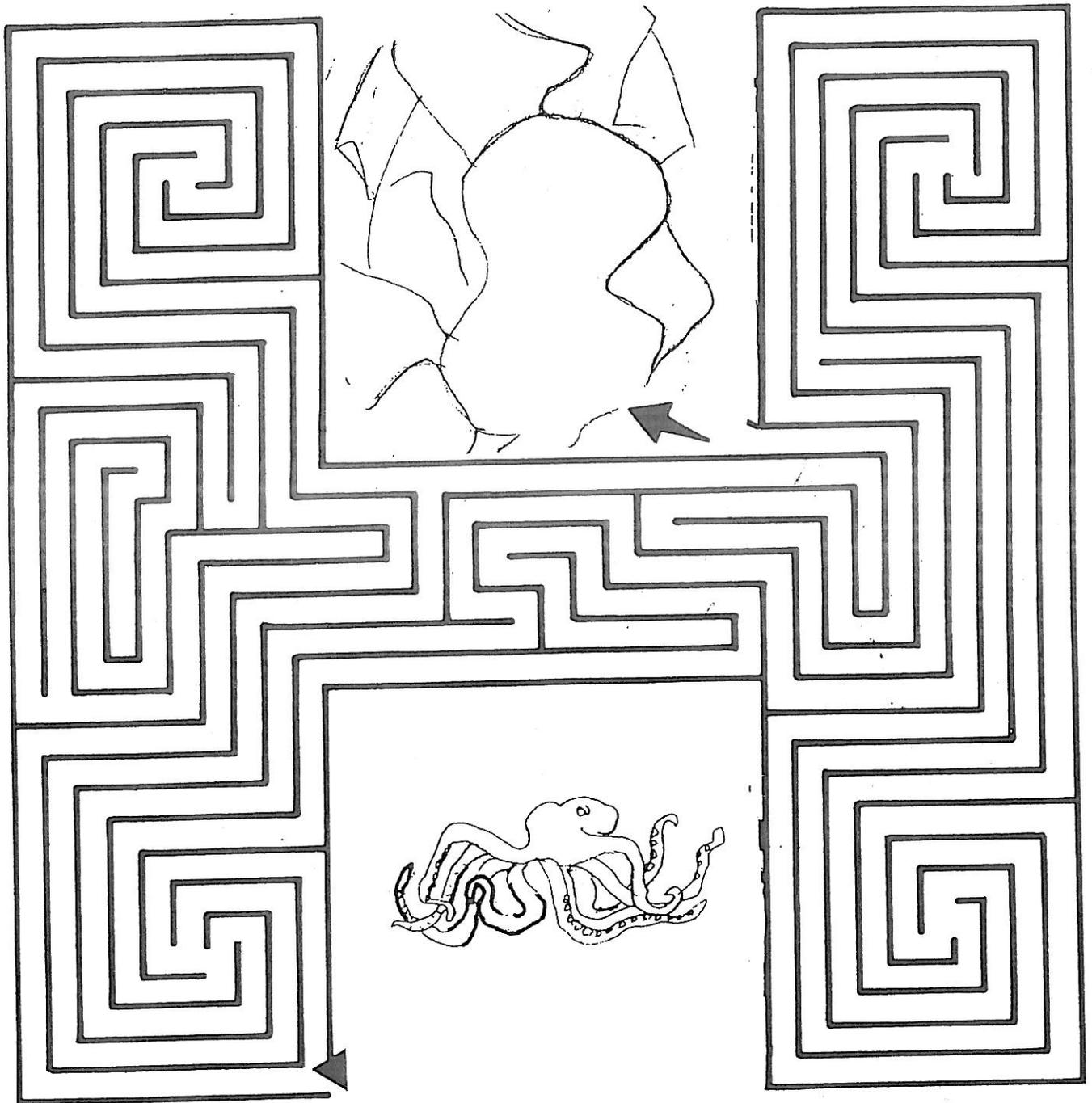




Color Me!

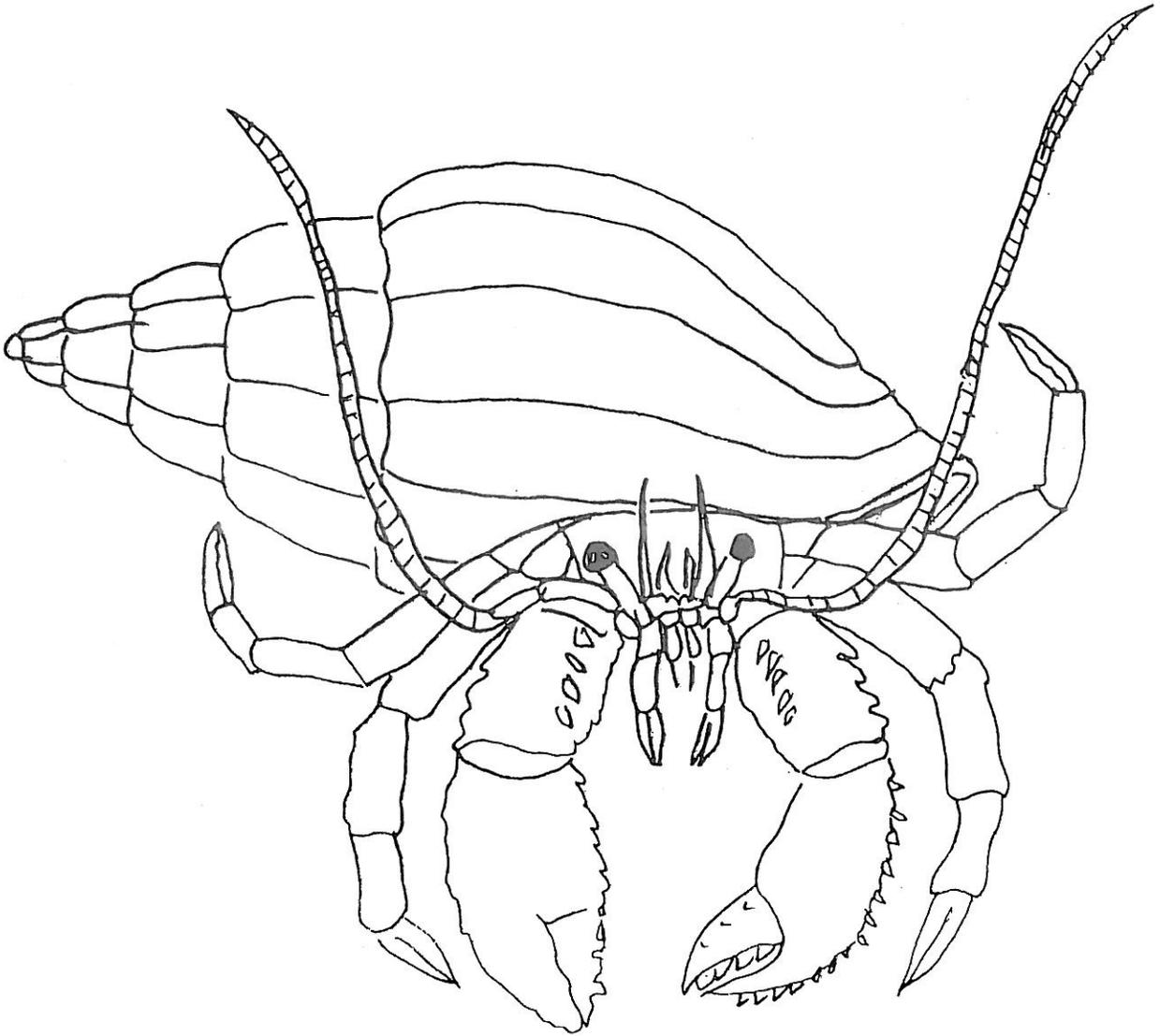
Bottlenose dolphins found throughout the Mobile Bay area. This type of dolphin is the most frequently seen in captivity.

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 Dolphin Island Estuarium.

Color Me!



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.

Can you find these Mobile Bay words?

Words are found down, across, and diagonally.

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

Mobile Bay

Estuary

Salinity

Barge

Marsh

Crab

Fishing

Egret

Squid

Puffer fish

Heron

Sea horse

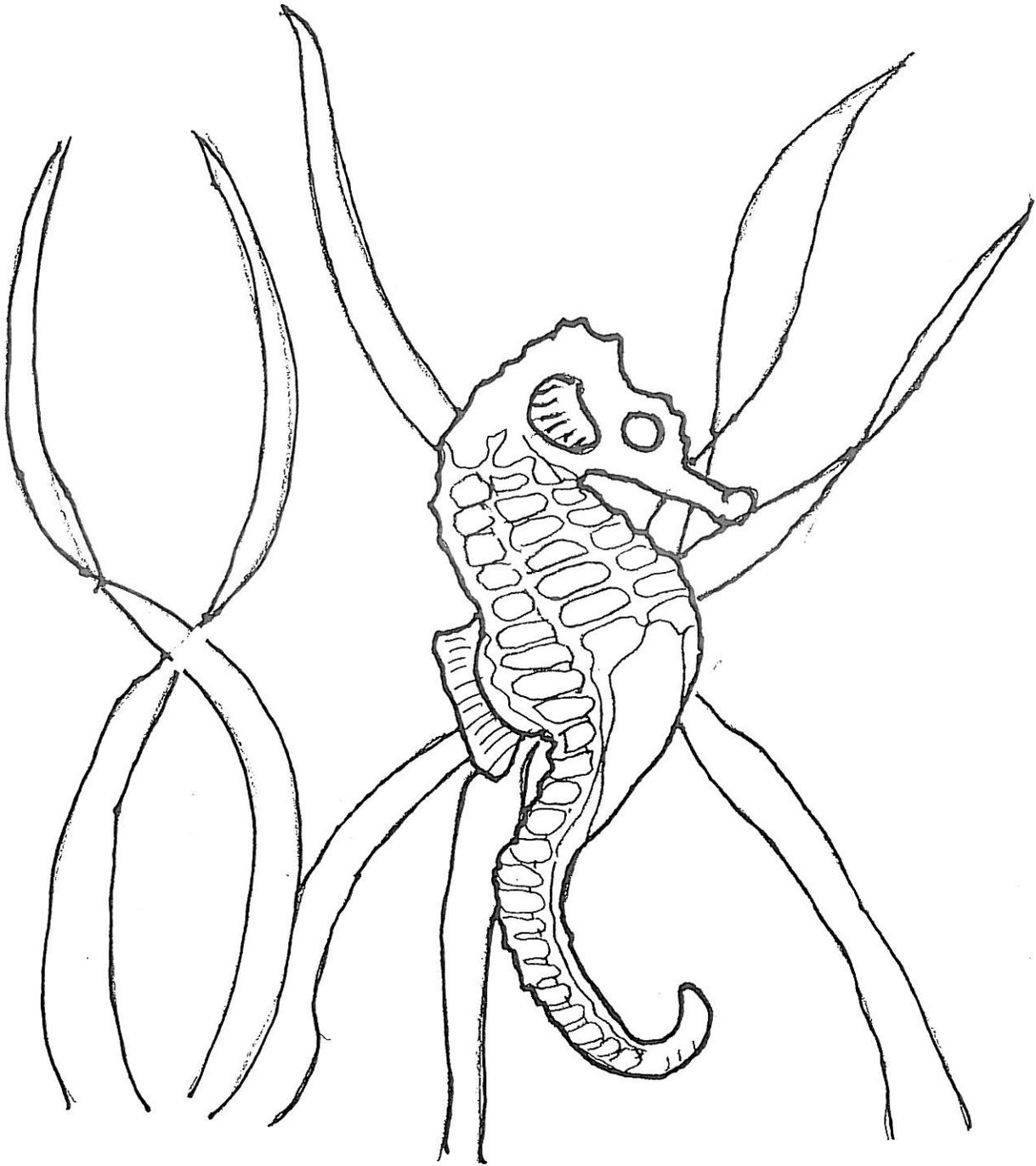
Net

Seine

Reel

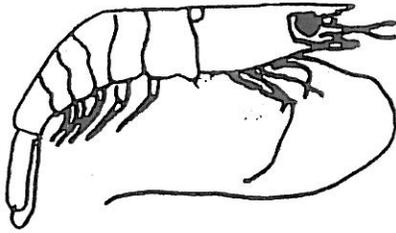
Shell

Color Me!

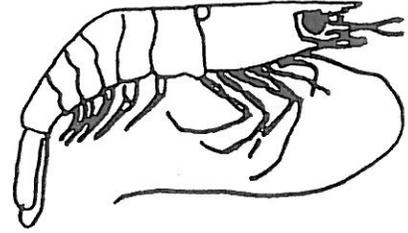


Sea horses are weak swimmers and are usually found hiding in seagrass. The males have a 'brood pouch' and raise the young.

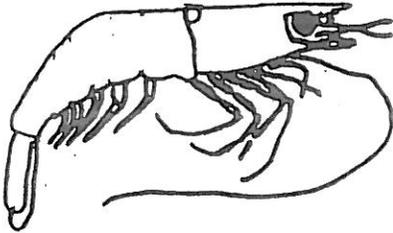
Which two are the same?



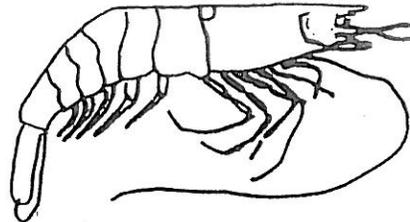
1



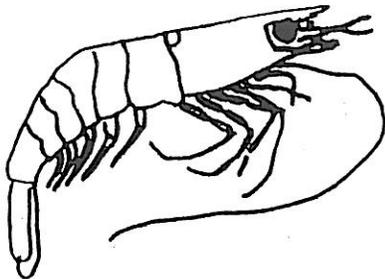
4



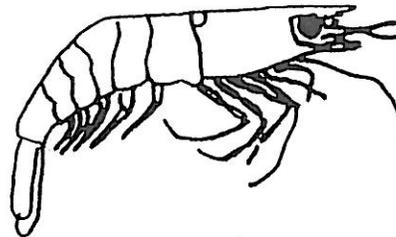
2



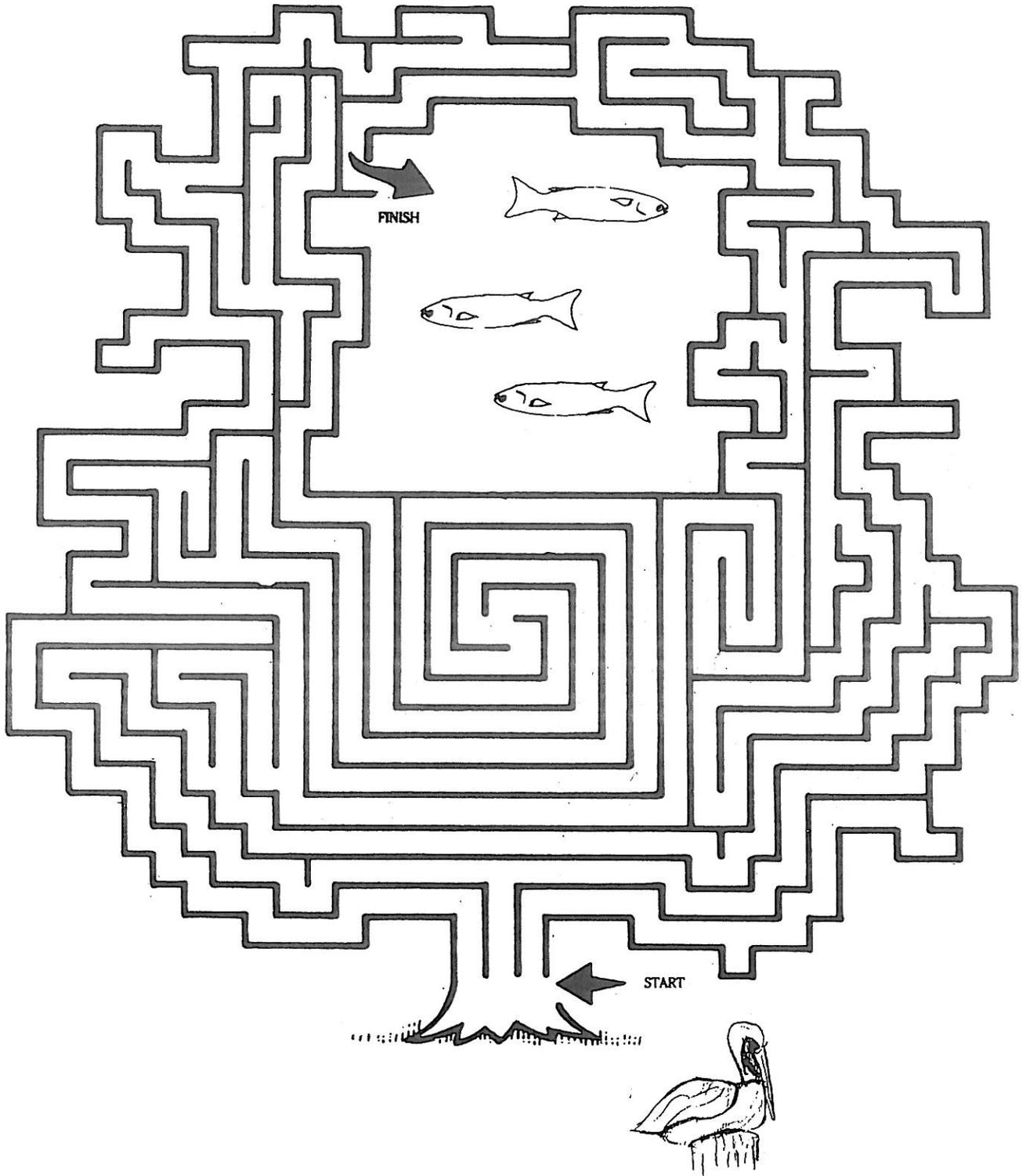
5



3



6



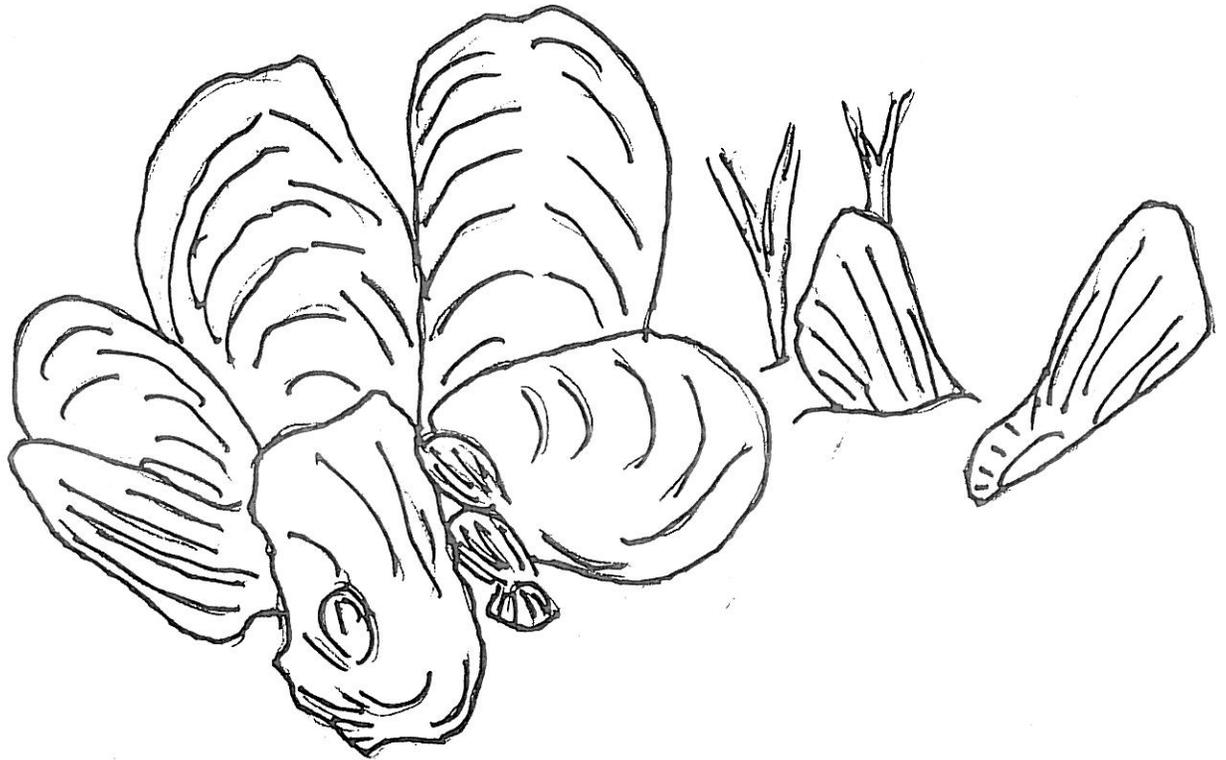
Can you help the pelican find its dinner of fish?

Connect the dots



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.

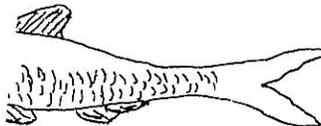
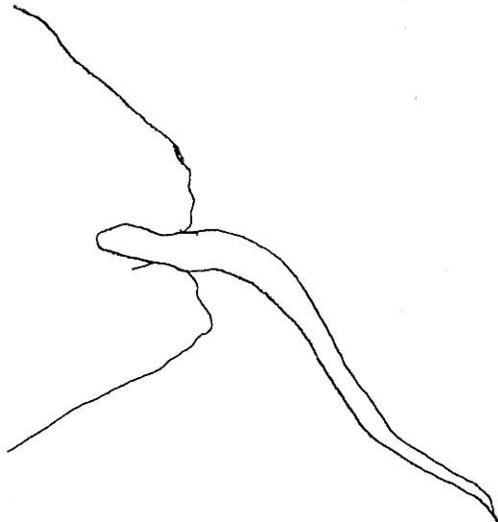
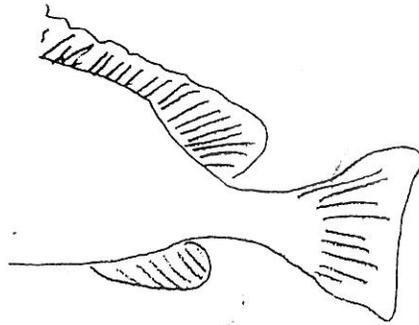
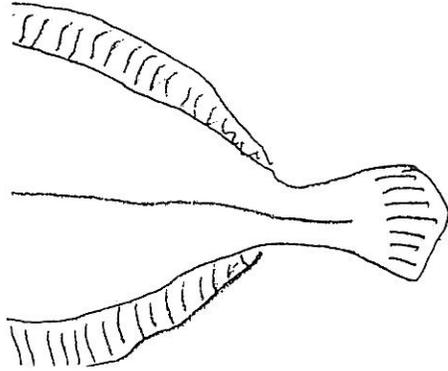
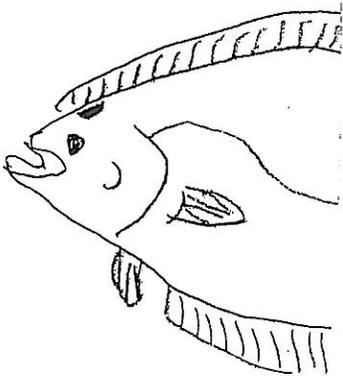
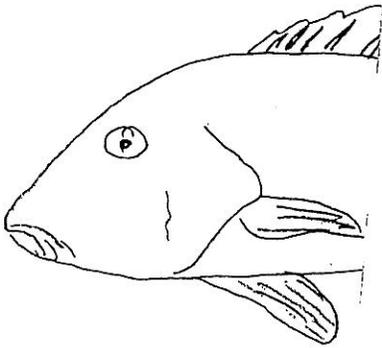
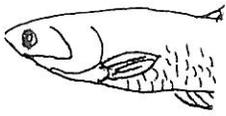
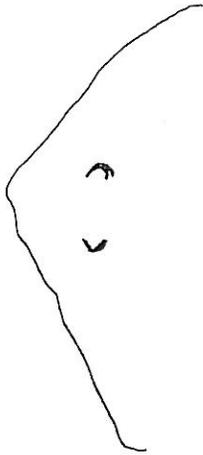
Color Me!



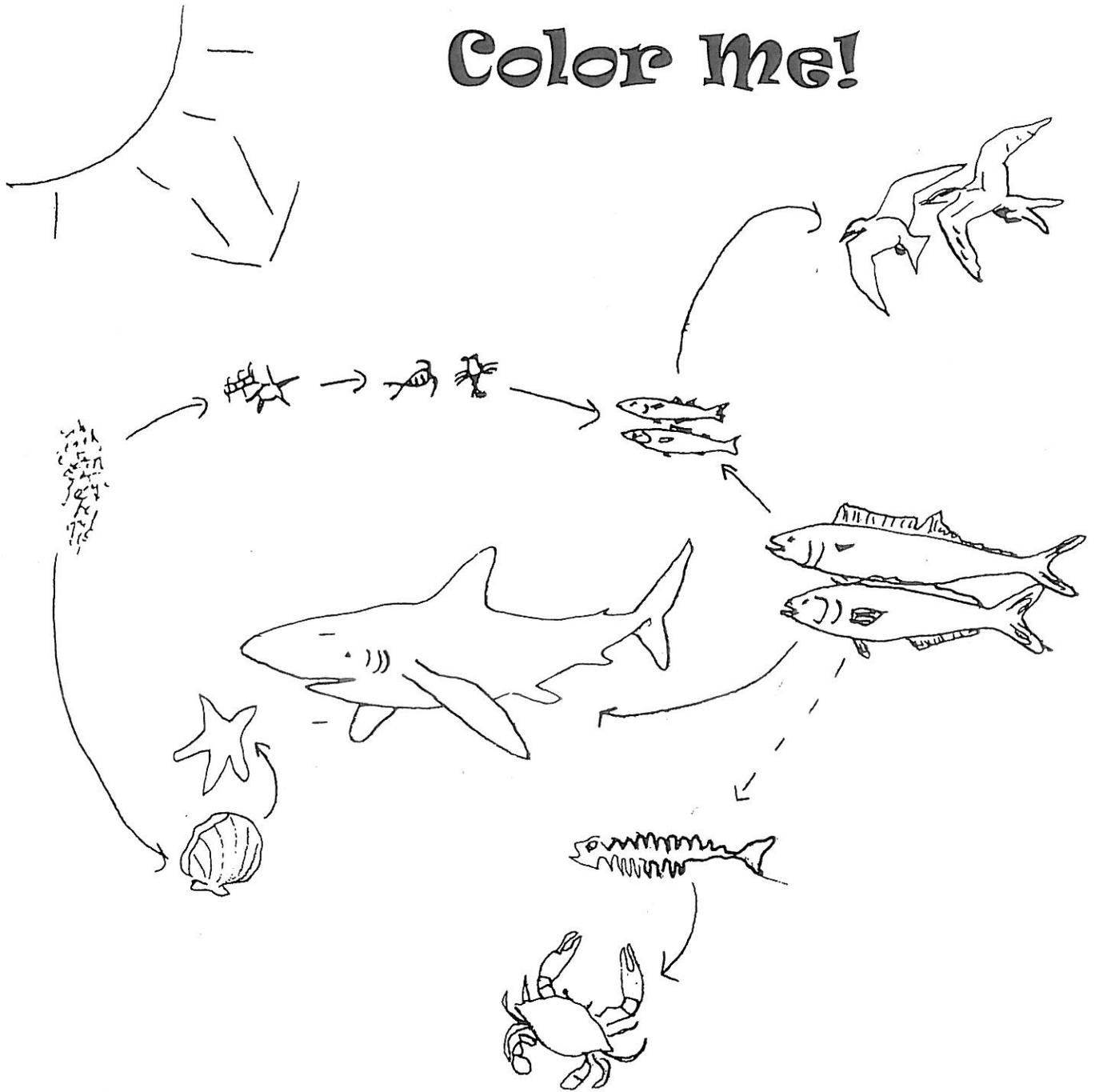
Common eastern oysters can be found attached to each other to form reefs and also on pilings. The ribbed mussel is found in salt marshes at the base of plants just under the mud.

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.



Color Me!



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"

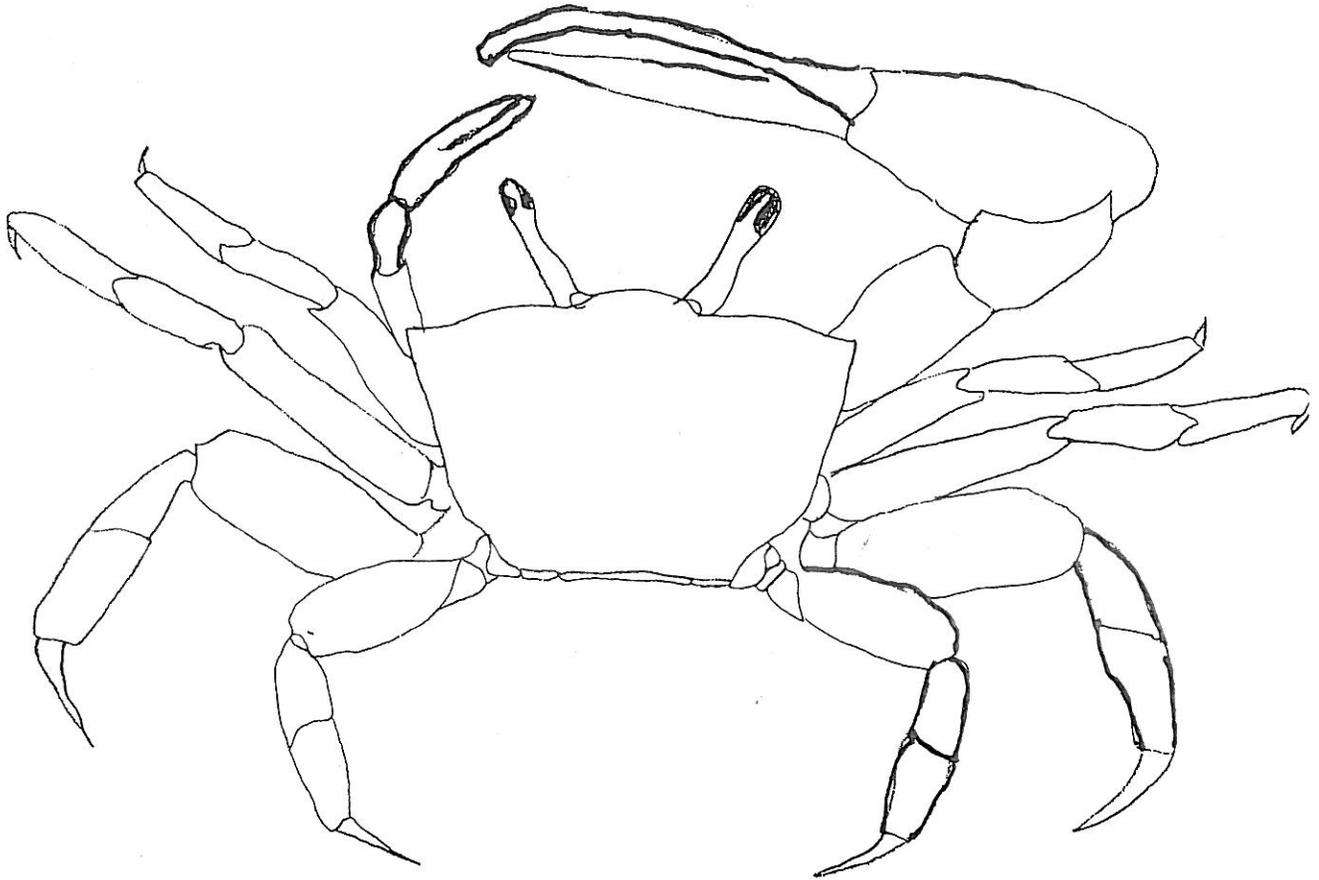
Directions: Fill in the mad lib list, then copy your mad libs into the blanks in the story below. Once you have filled in all the blanks, read your completed story for a fun look at how animals and habitats depend on each other for survival.

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.

Color Me!

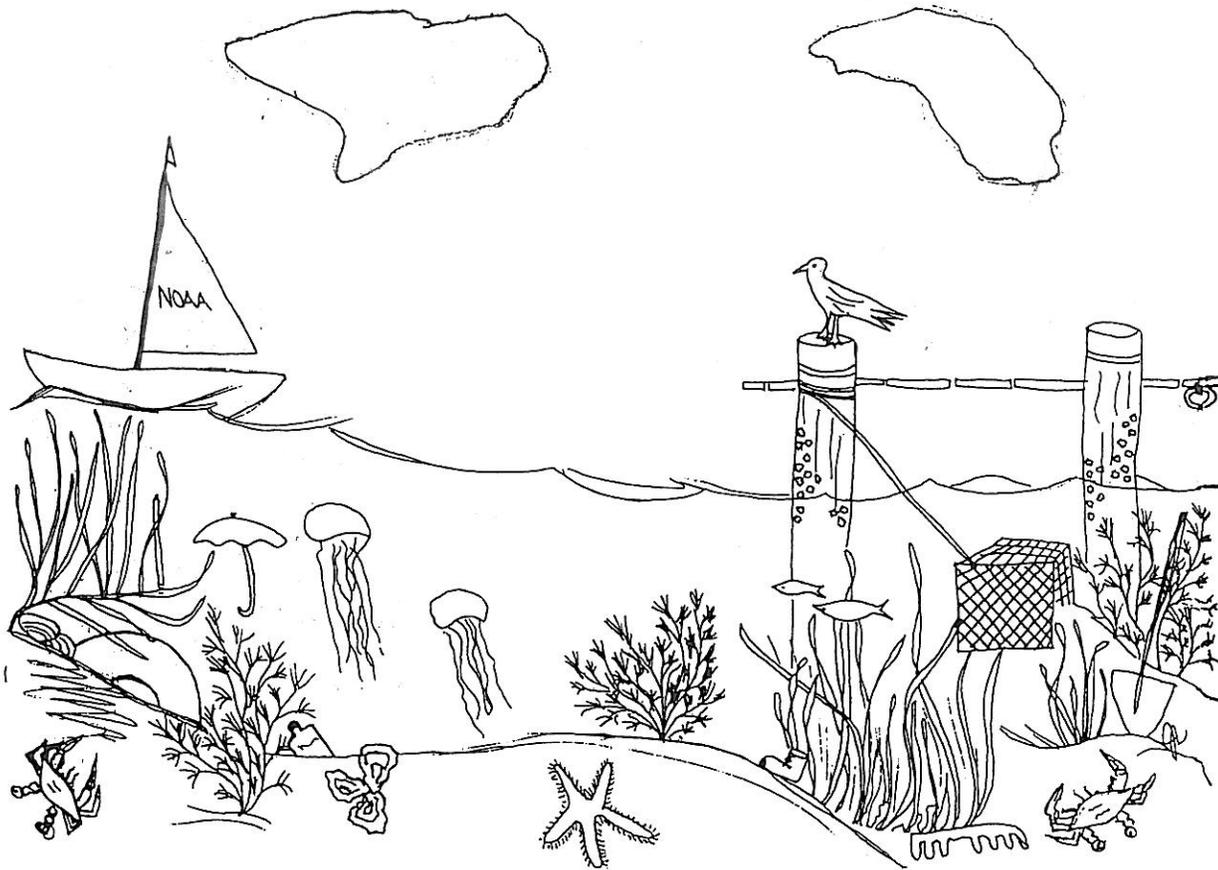


Fiddler crabs burrow into the mud of salt marshes. Males have one claw larger than the other. The crab eats with the smaller claw, while the larger claw is used to threaten or fight with other males.

Can you find these items in the picture?

Tire
Fishing Rod
Shovel
Comb

Bottle
Umbrella
Boot



Word Search

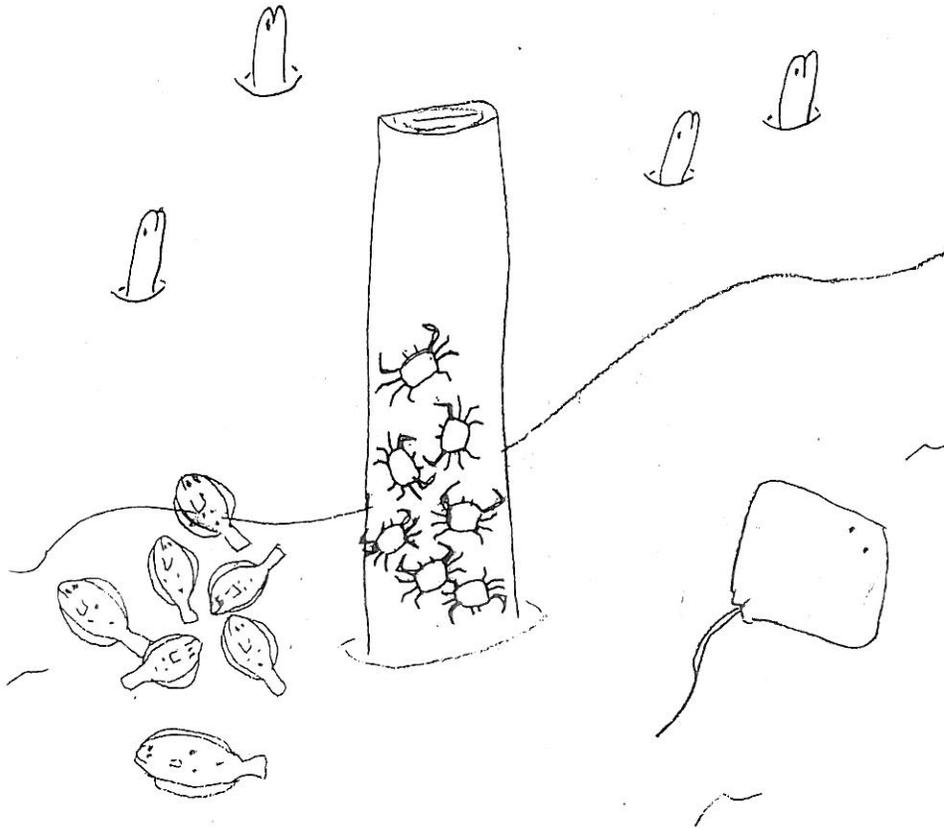
Words are found down, across, and diagonally.

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

Management
 Conservation
 Dauphin Island
 Alabama
 Hermit crab
 Sea star
 Sea turtle
 Dolphin
 Sand

Octopus
 Shrimp
 Pelican
 Oyster
 Red snapper
 Catfish
 Barnacle
 Tide
 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

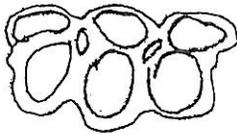
apple core



400 years

1 million years

plastic
6-pack rings



450 years

waxed milk
carton



3 months

2 months

aluminum
cans



glass bottles
& jars



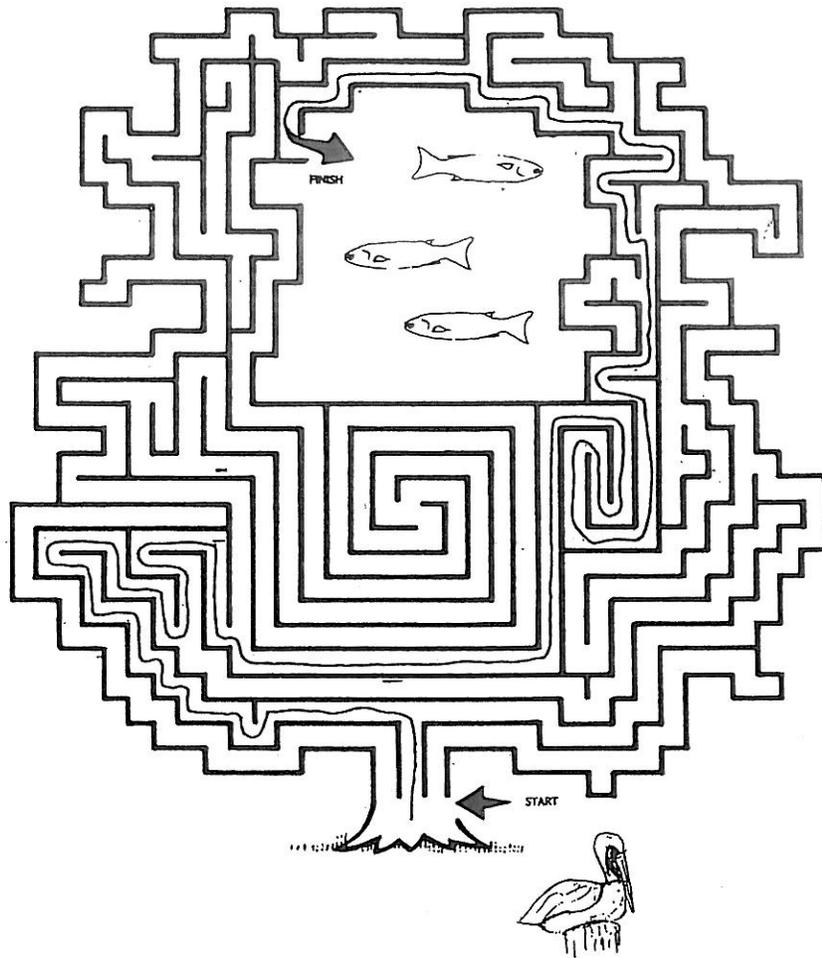
Color Me!



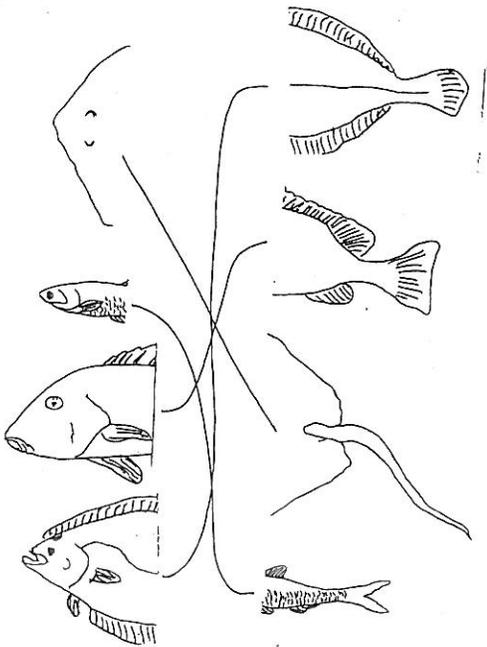
The beaches, marshes, coastal and open oceans are homes to many different plants and animals. Be polite and do not mess up their homes. Take your trash back to your home, just leave footprints in theirs.

Answers

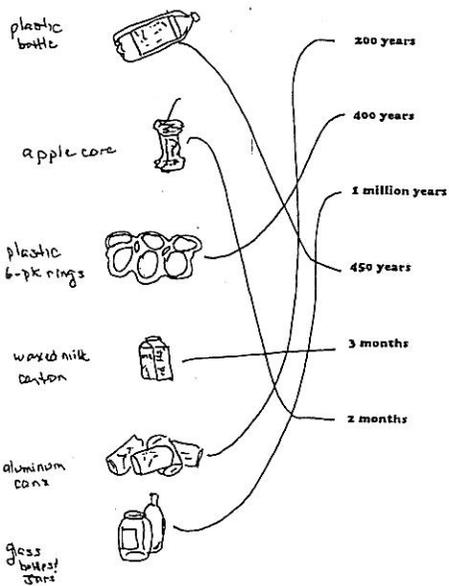
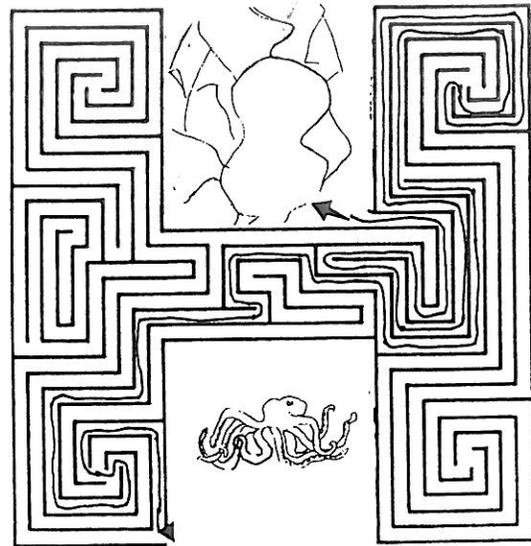
M	A	R	S	H	E	L	D	L	S
S	O	X	A	Q	C	U	E	W	E
E	F	B	L	M	U	E	Q	N	I
A	I	A	I	R	R	L	O	E	N
H	S	R	N	L	S	R	D	T	E
O	H	G	I	H	E	G	R	E	D
R	I	E	T	H	K	B	J	B	L
S	N	Z	Y	E	C	R	A	B	Y
E	G	E	S	T	U	A	R	Y	P
P	U	F	F	E	R	F	I	S	H



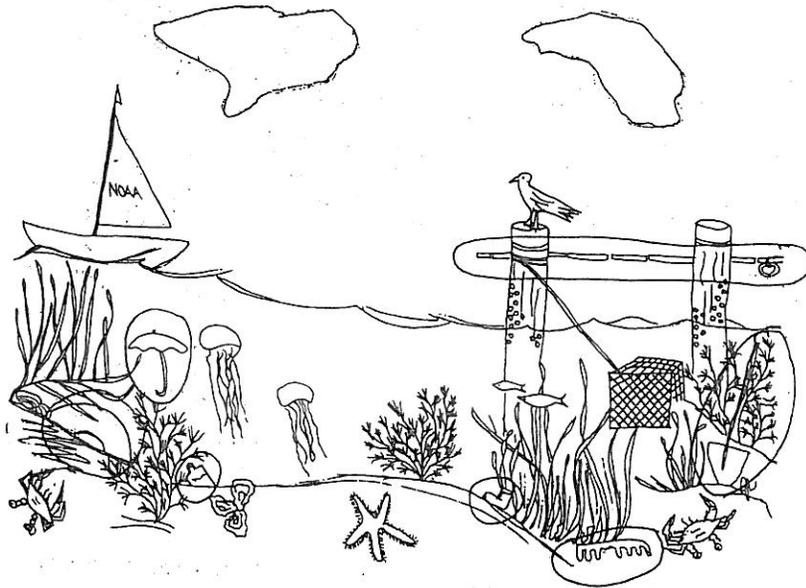
More Answers



Which two are the same: 3 & 4



Even More Answers



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

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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



May 2005