



COASTAL MATCHING

This lesson plan developed by:



Overview:

Coastal ecosystems are full of diverse species including seabirds, fish, shellfish, and seagrass. Humans can have a negative impact on coastal environments such as plastic pollution, oil spills, habitat destruction and coastal development. Humans can also make changes to their behavior to protect our precious coastlines and their inhabitants. This fun matching game allows students to learn more about their local coastal ecosystems and the impact humans have on our environment.

Materials:

- Poster board or piece of wood (20" x 20")
- 16 image cards (4" x 4", laminated optional)
- 16 clue cards (4" x 4", laminated optional)
- Tape or glue

Set-up Prior to Activity:

- Print and cut out the image and clue cards. If possible, laminate the cards. You can modify the images and clues to match your local environment.
- Tape or glue the 16 image cards onto a poster board or piece of wood in a 4 by 4 pattern.



Duration:

20-30 minutes

Physical Activity:

Low

Coastal Matching (cont.)

Background:

Coastal ecosystems are areas where land and water join to create a distinct environment that includes salt marshes, mangroves, wetlands, estuaries and bays. These areas are home to many different types of plants and animals. Unfortunately, humans pose a threat to these environments and their inhabitants through some of our actions such as plastic pollution, oil spills and nutrient pollution. We can all take steps to mitigate our impact on these important ecosystems.

Activity:

1. As a group, have the students look over the Matching Board and see if they recognize the items that are found in a coastal environment.
2. Start a discussion about what items belong (or are helpful) for the environment (fish, seagrass, etc.) and what may pose a threat to the environment (oil spill, plastics, etc.).
3. Read the clue cards out loud or choose a student to read them.
4. Have the students match the clue card with the image.
5. The goal is for the students to get four in a row. Bonus points if the students can fill the whole board.
6. End the game with a discussion about how we can help protect and reduce our impact on our coastal environment.
7. You can modify the image and clue cards based on where you are located. These cards are for the Gulf of Mexico/sub-tropical region.

Ocean Literacy Principles:

Ocean literacy is an understanding of the ocean's influence on us, and our impact on the ocean. There are seven [Ocean Literacy Essential Principles](#) that all people of our blue planet should have an opportunity to learn and understand. This activity touches upon the following Essential Principles:

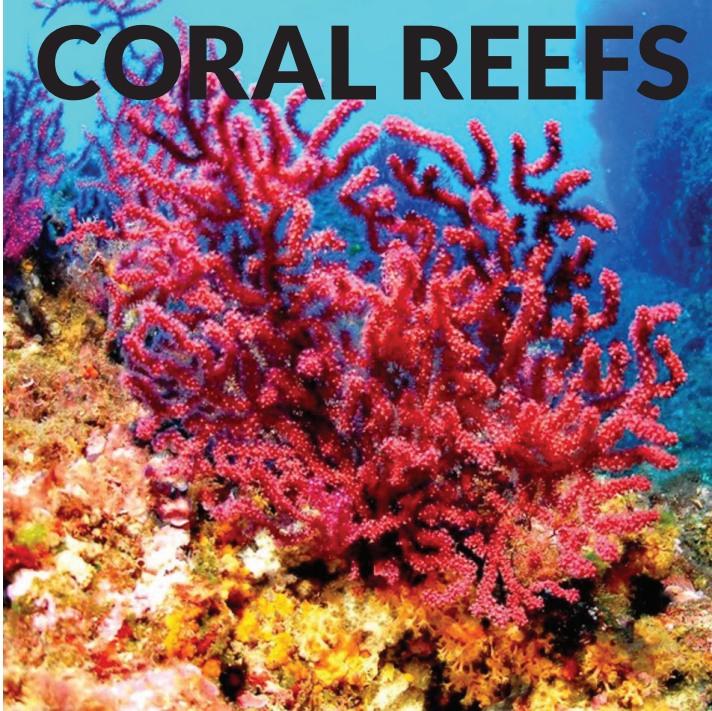
5. The ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems
6. The ocean and humans are inextricably interconnected

Further Your Impact with Sailors for the Sea Powered by Oceana:

As sailors and water-lovers, you are among the first to notice changes to our seas such as fewer marine animals, more pollution and damaged marine habitat. Through our Green Boating initiative, Sailors for the Sea Powered by Oceana provides opportunities for you and your community to address pressing ocean health issues. As a Green Boater, you will be provided with the information, resources and access to combat marine plastic pollution, prevent habitat destruction, source responsible seafood and protect marine animals. From demanding plastic-free alternatives to choosing sustainable seafood, your voice and actions are an important part of restoring the abundance of our oceans and protecting marine habitats. [Join our growing Green Boating Community today.](#)

Coastal Matching (cont.)

CORAL REEFS



**PLASTIC
BOTTLE**



RED



SNAPPER

BLACK



GROUPER

Coastal Matching (cont.)

Often referred to as “rainforests of the ocean,” these diverse ecosystems are made up of living animals.

A single-use receptacle that can be replaced with something reusable.

With short, sharp, needle-like teeth, this fish inhabits reef ecosystems.

Large marine fish (aka rockfish) that feeds on other fish and squid.

Coastal Matching (cont.)

GREEN SEA



TURTLE



PLASTIC BAG

OIL SPILL

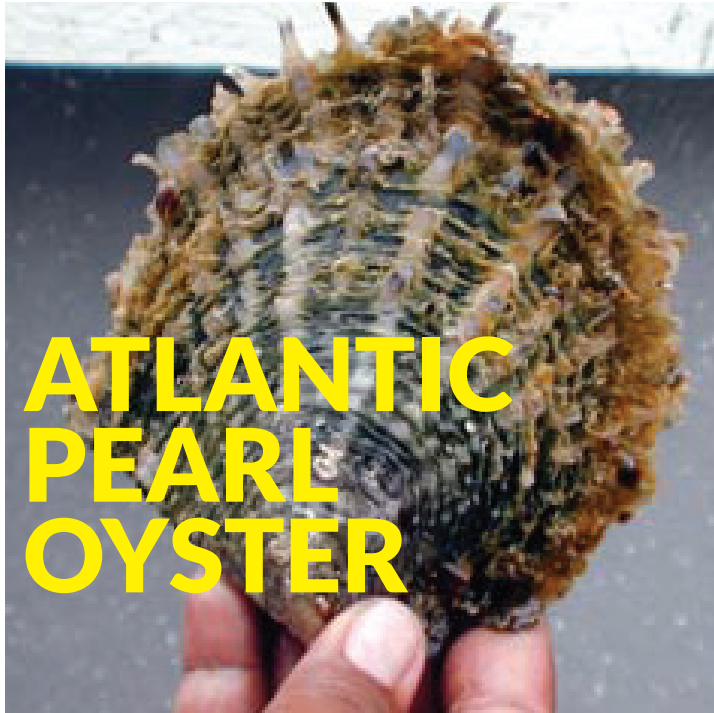


NURSE SHARK

Coastal Matching (cont.)

An endangered marine reptile that travels thousands of miles between feeding and nesting sites.	Manmade object that resembles a jellyfish when floating in the water.
Pollutant that comes from cars boats, drilling, etc. that can harm marine ecosystems and life.	Nocturnal animal that inhabits the seafloor and sucks up its prey.

Coastal Matching (cont.)



Coastal Matching (cont.)

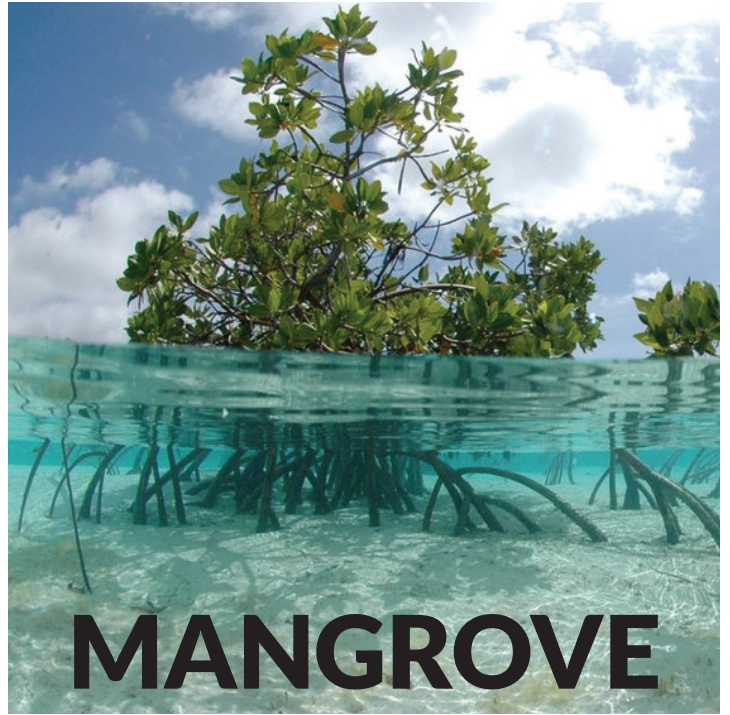
Dark colored mollusk that has growth rings on its surface.	Tropical cyclone that forms over tropical or subtropical waters.
Plastic product that is used to make containers and cups.	Large herbivorous marine mammal (aka sea cow).

Coastal Matching (cont.)

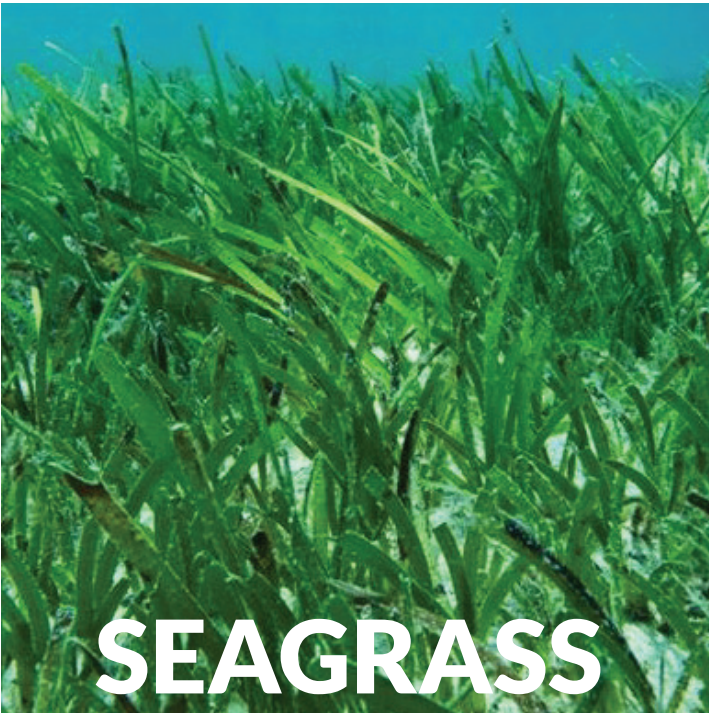
PELICAN



MANGROVE



SEAGRASS



LIONFISH



Coastal Matching (cont.)

Large animal that has a long beak and large throat pouch for catching prey.	Shrub or small tree that grows in salty or brackish water. Home to many diverse animals.
Plants that are known as “lungs of the sea” because of how much oxygen they produce. Nursery habitat for many animals.	Invasive (non-native) species that are voracious predators.