

KIDS ENVIRONMENTAL LESSON PLANS

This lesson plan developed by:



Coastal Matching

Overview:

This fun game allows students to learn more about their local coastal ecosystem and the impacts humans have on this environment.

Ocean Literacy Principles:

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

Key Concepts:

- Coastal ecosystems are full of diverse species including seabirds, fish and seagrass.
- Humans can have a negative impact on coastal environments including plastic pollution, oil spills, carbon footprint etc.
- Humans can make changes to their behavior to protect our precious coastlines and their inhabitants.

Materials:

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

Set-up Prior to Activity:

- Print and cut out the image and clue cards. Use the cards at the end of this lesson or create your own. If possible laminate the cards.
- Tape or glue the 16 image cards onto poster board or piece of wood in a 4 by 4 pattern.



Coastal Matching (cont.)

Duration:

20-30 min

Physical Activity:

Minimal

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.

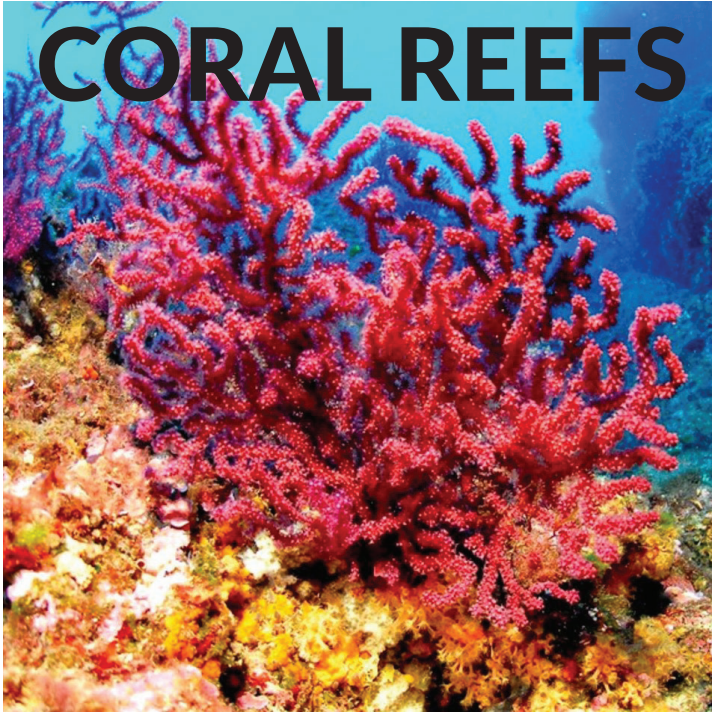
Activity:

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. Either have a student or you read the clue cards out loud.
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.

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.](#)

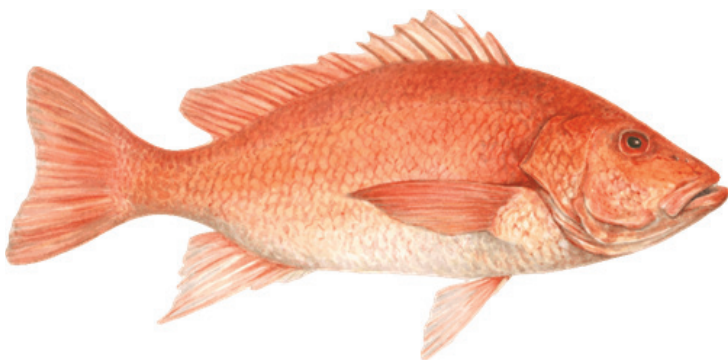
CORAL REEFS



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.

GREEN SEA

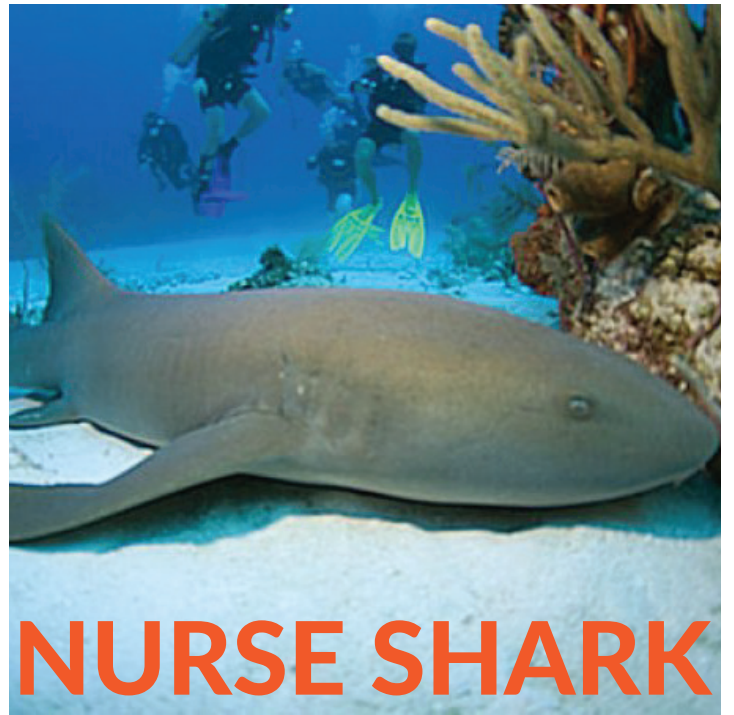


TURTLE



PLASTIC BAG

OIL SPILL



NURSE SHARK



Coastal Matching (cont.)

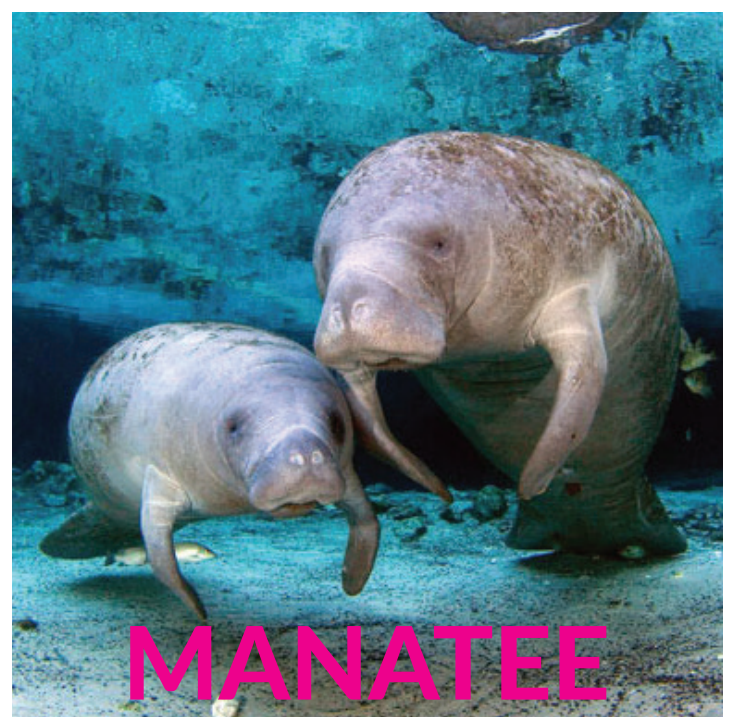
An endangered marine reptile that travels thousands of miles between feeding and nesting sites.

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.)





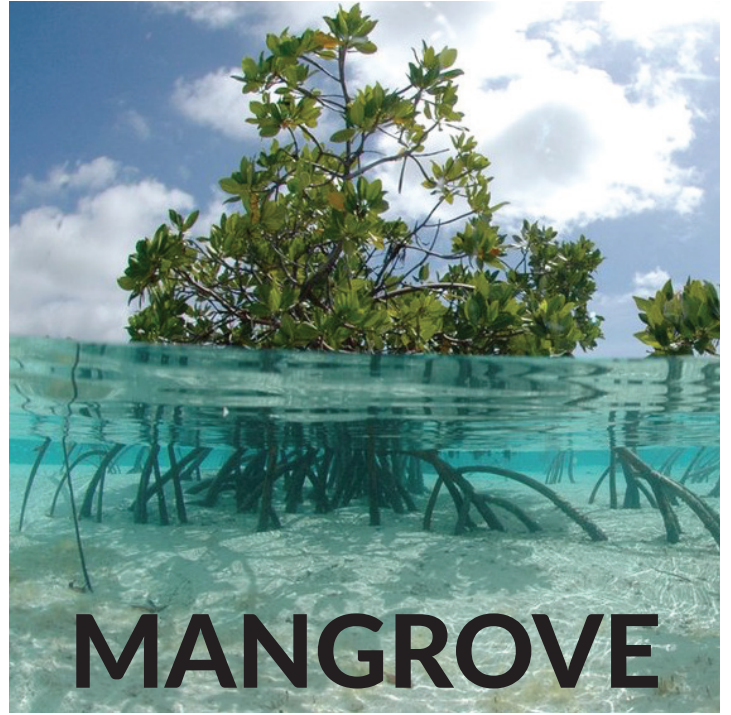
Coastal Matching (cont.)

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

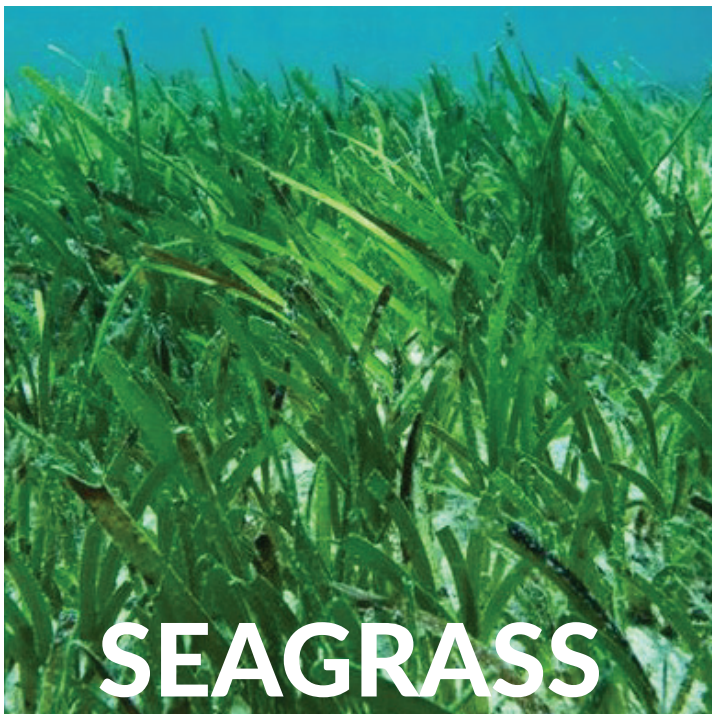
Coastal Matching (cont.)



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.