

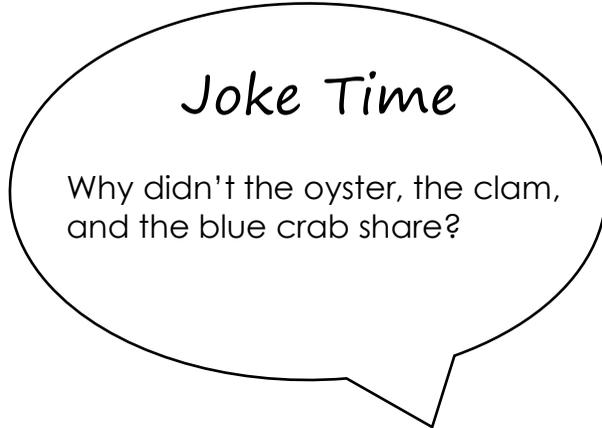


Who Lives in the Wetlands



Wetland Animal Trivia

- Great blue herons nest together in groups called **heronries**.
- People have been eating clams, oysters, and crabs for thousands of years.
- Horseshoe crabs were living more than 300 million years ago!
- Blue crabs always walk and swim sideways.



Joke Time

Why didn't the oyster, the clam, and the blue crab share?



Joke Answer:

Because they were shellfish.

Did You Know...?

Red-winged blackbirds live in many different habitats. One of their favorite habitats is the wetlands. They live in both freshwater and saltwater wetlands. They are strong fliers that often migrate in groups of 1000 or more. Red-winged blackbirds like to eat seeds and insects. They can catch insects while in flight!



For more agricultural education lessons and resources, visit: www.maefonline.com



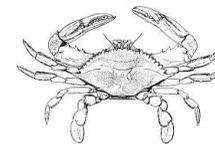
clams

Clams and **oysters** are shellfish that live underwater. Clams prefer freshwater and oysters like brackish water. They both have two shells that protect a soft body. Clam shells are smooth and oyster shells are rough. Clams and oysters both eat tiny organisms like algae and plankton.



oysters

Horseshoe Crabs live in warm, coastal waters. They have a hard outer shell, five pairs of legs, and a pair of pincers. They use their long tail to flip themselves over when they get stuck on their backs. They can grow up to two feet long and can weigh up to five pounds. Horseshoe crabs eat clams and worms.



Blue Crabs live in brackish water. They can grow to be 9 inches from tip to tip of their shell, but they usually are harvested before that. They have 3 sets of walking legs, 2 swimming legs, and 2 larger claws they use to grab their food. Their favorite foods include soft shelled clams, oysters, dead fish, and plants.

Wetlands are an important part of our environment. They provide a perfect **habitat** for many different animals to live in!

How Well Did You Read?

Place a ✓ under each food that an animal eats.
Use the text for information.
The first one has been done for you.

	plants	worms	fish	clams	oysters
Great Blue Heron			✓		
Clams					
Oysters					
Horseshoe Crab					
Blue Crab					

Areas where land and water mix together are called

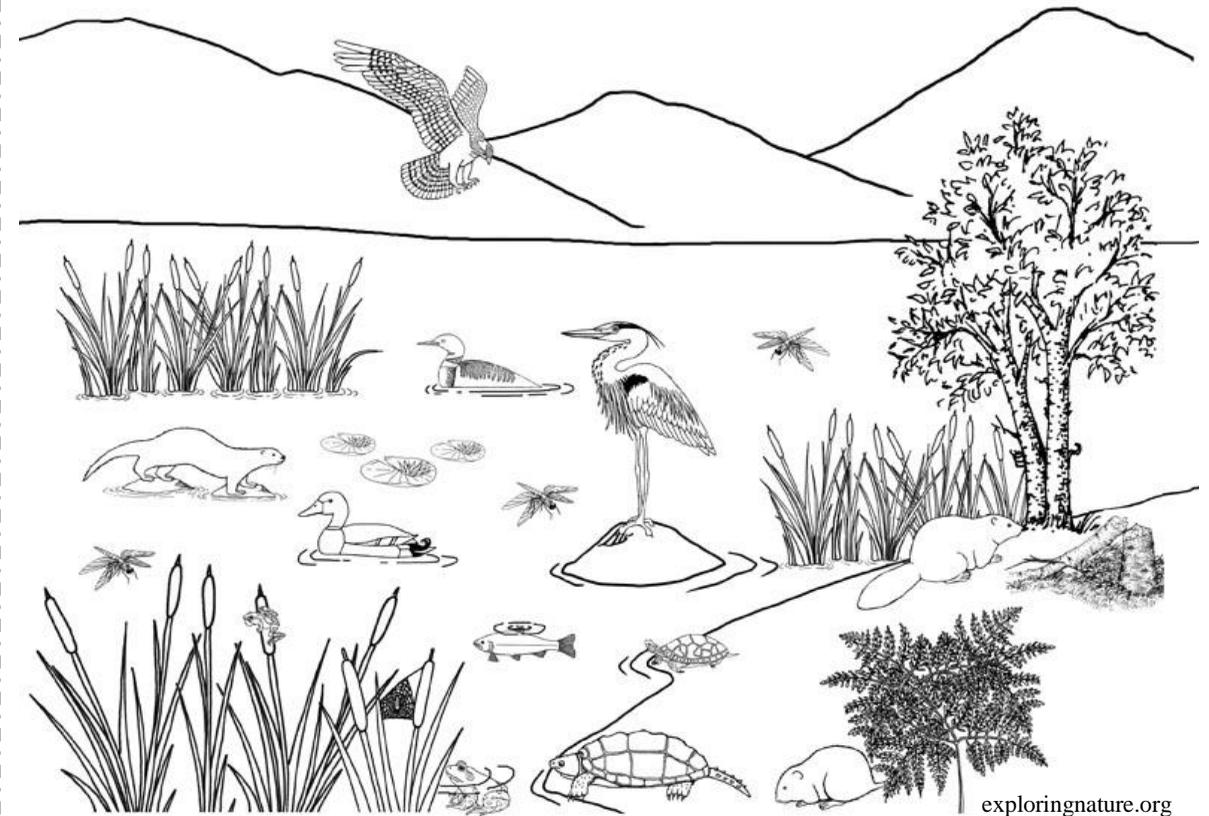
t

Places where animals live are called

i

Color the Wetlands

This coloring page shows some of the other animals that live in wetland areas.
Can you identify the animals in the picture?
Use the word box for help.



exploringnature.org

Word Box

beaver otter heron mallard duck loon
snapping turtle frog painted turtle muskrat
dragonfly bass fish osprey