



HABITAT SORTING

Who lives in our coastal habitats?

Seagrass Meadow		

Seagrass meadows are formed by an underwater plant called eelgrass. These underwater meadows are often called nursery habitats because they provide shelter for small invertebrates (crabs, shrimp), shellfish and juvenile finfish. Seagrasses also filter water, produce oxygen and control erosion.

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Sandy Shores			

Sandy shores, or beaches, are one of the habitats where the land and the ocean meet! This is also where you'll find dunes, an area of native plant life including beachgrass. As the tide changes, many organisms hide in the sand for protection from waves and to stay moist, but if you can also find shorebirds nesting and feeding at our local sandy shores!





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Salt Marsh		

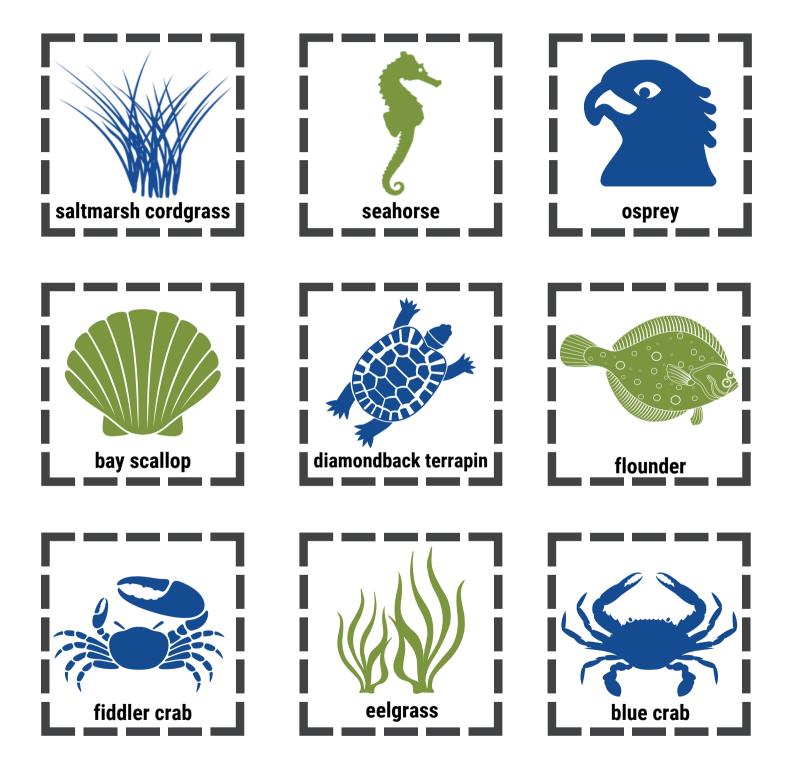
The **salt marsh** is a **tidal wetland** that is flooded and drained by tides on a daily basis. The salt marsh is where you find marshy soils of deep **mud** and **peat** (decomposing plant matter), which isn't always pleasant to smell! Salt marshes are really important for **filtering pollutants** from our local bays and as a **nursery habitat** for many local marine species.





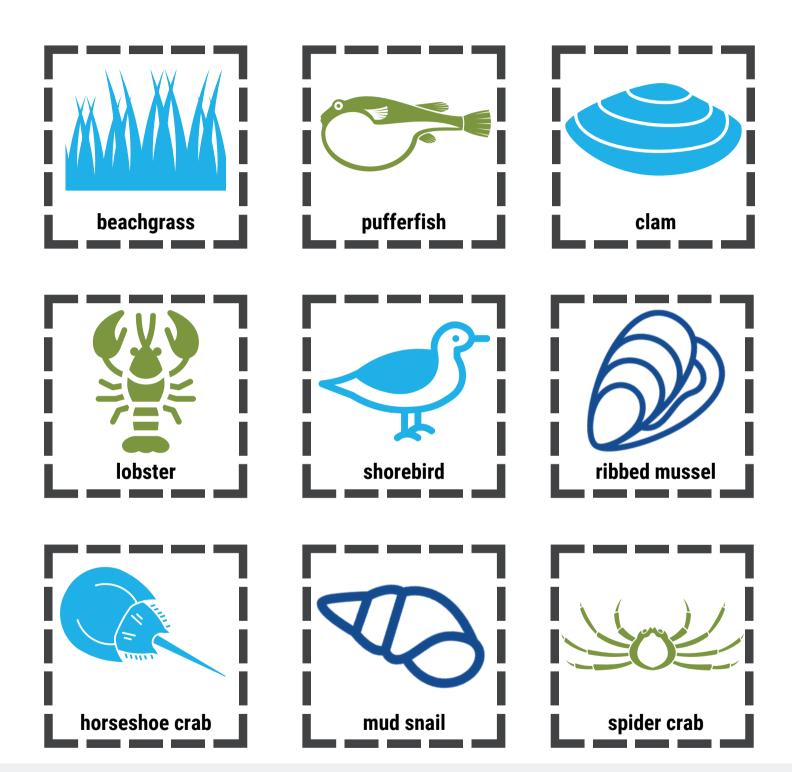


Cut and paste these organisms to sort them into their correct habitats





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