



# 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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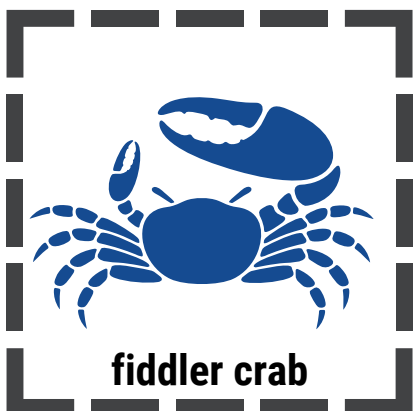
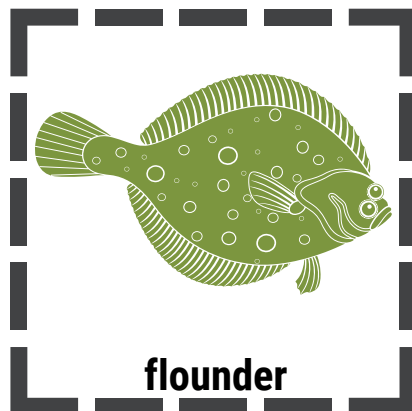
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## Salt Marsh

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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