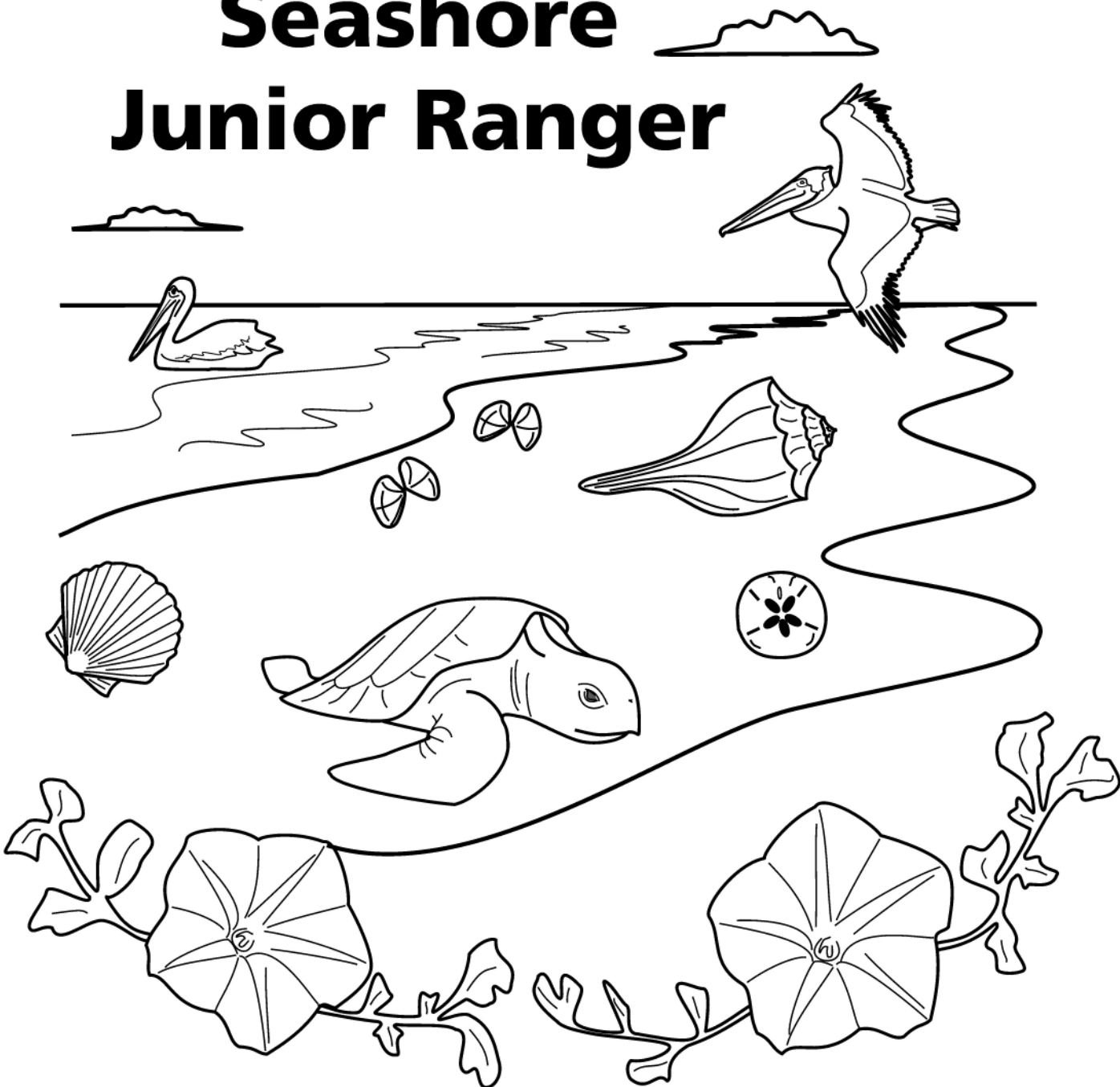




Padre Island National Seashore Junior Ranger



How to become a Padre Island National Seashore Junior Ranger!



Are you interested in exploring? Do you like art, science, history, or nature? Would you like to learn more about the national parks that belong to you? If you answered yes to these questions, then you are ready to become a Junior Ranger!

Here's how to earn your official badge and become a Padre Island National Seashore Junior Ranger:

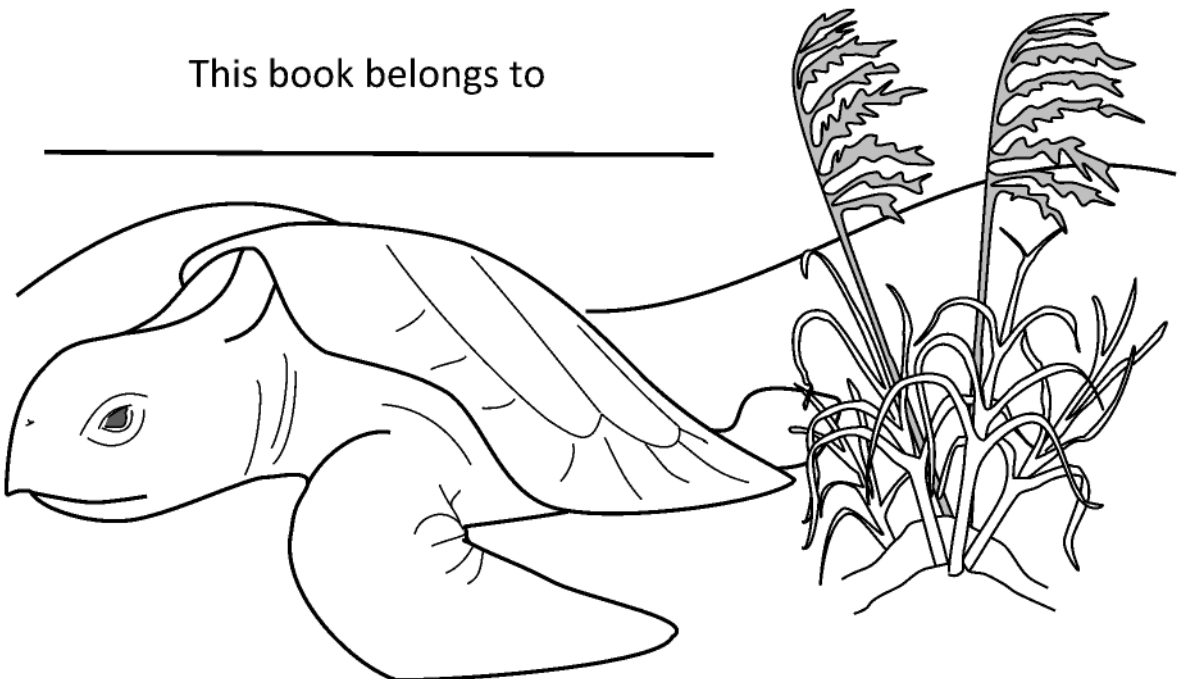
1) There are 11 activities in this book. How old are you? Complete the number of activities that matches your age. For example, if you are 6 years old you will need to complete 6 activities in the book. **How old are you?** ____

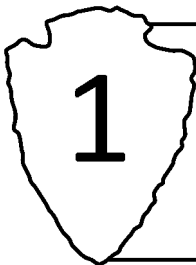
2) When you're finished, take your book to the Malaquite Visitor Center to have it reviewed by a ranger. You can also send your book in using the email address or mailing address on the back of this book.

3) Once your book has been reviewed, a ranger will swear you in and award your Junior Ranger badge!



This book belongs to





Parts of the Park

There are many different parts to Padre Island National Seashore. Between the beaches, coastal prairie, Laguna Madre, and Novillo Line Camp, there are a lot of unique places to explore. Use the Word Bank to fill in the blanks and learn about the different parts of the park!

1) **Padre Island National Seashore** is the

_____, undeveloped barrier island in the world!

2) A **barrier island** is a long narrow island that _____ the mainland from erosion and storms

3) Laguna Madre is a **hypersaline lagoon** which means it's _____ than the ocean!

4) The **Grasslands Nature Trail** runs through the coastal prairie, a habitat for thousands of _____ and _____.

5) **Novillo Line Camp** is a cowboy and vaquero camp from when _____ were ranched on Padre Island.

6) The **Gulf of Mexico** is a home for marine wildlife including _____ and _____.

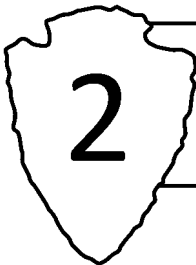
Word Bank!

- Plants and animals
- Cattle
- Turtles and dolphins
- Saltier
- Longest
- Protects



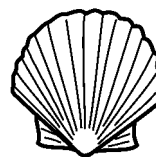
Did you know? People food is bad for birds because it can make them very sick. Birds might act hungry and try to steal your food, but they can get plenty of food on their own. You can help keep birds healthy by not feeding them!

What can birds eat instead of people food? _____



Ask A Ranger

Have you ever talked to a national park ranger? Now's your chance! Ask a ranger these questions and record his or her answers.



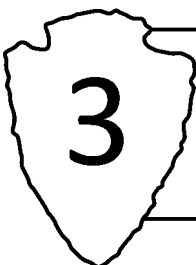
What's your name? _____

How long have you worked at Padre Island National Seashore? _____

What's the best part about your job? _____

What's your favorite plant or animal here? _____

What's your favorite activity to do on the island? _____



Beach Safety

The beach is a sunny place and sometimes too much sun isn't a good thing! What should you bring to stay safe at the beach? Put an X over the items you will **NOT** need to **stay safe** at the beach.



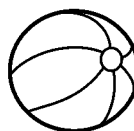
Water



Sand Pail



Radio



Beach ball



Hat



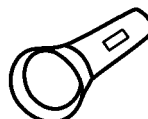
Sunglasses



Sunscreen



Scarf



Flashlight

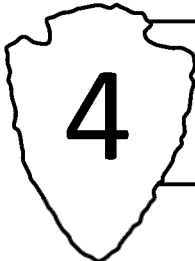


Shade/Umbrella

Have Fun And Stay Safe!

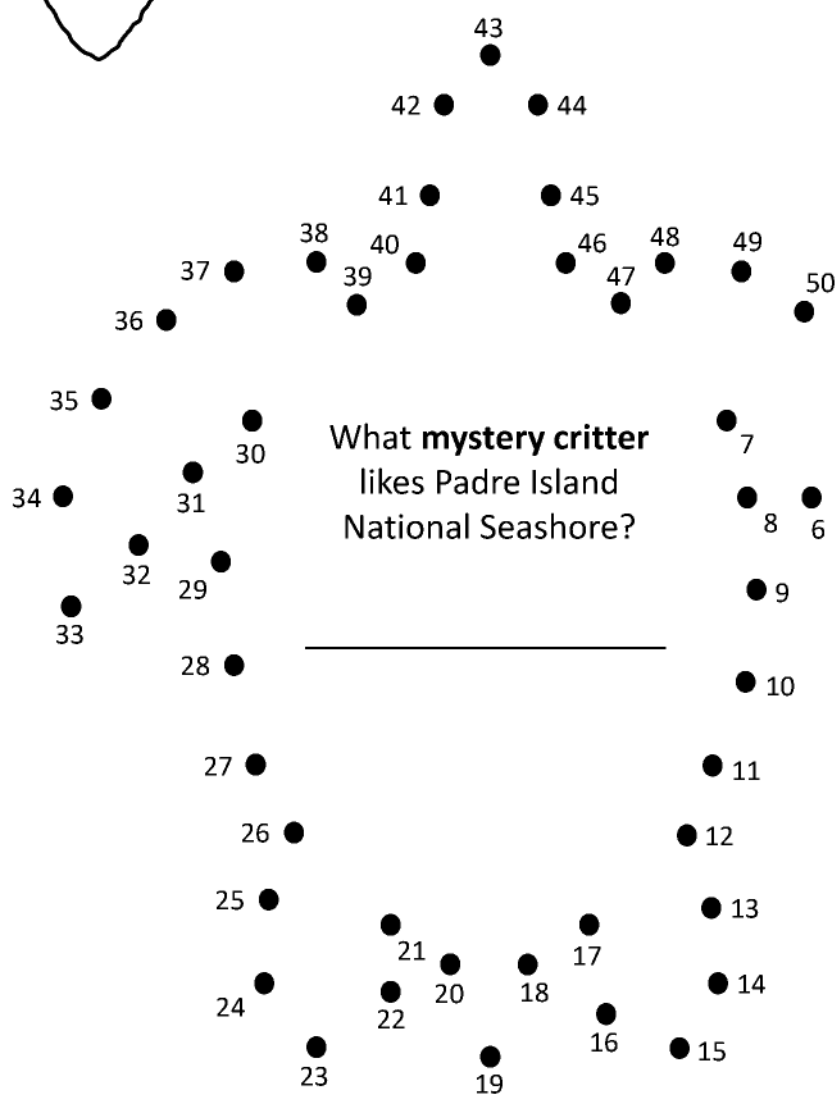
Help make your visit to Padre Island National Seashore both fun and safe by keeping the following tips in mind:

- Wear sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Stay hydrated! Drink plenty of water.
- When thunder roars, head indoors! Don't stay on the beach during a thunderstorm.
- On the beach, avoid the Portuguese Man-O-War, a blue colored jellyfish-like creature that can sting even when it has washed ashore.
- Watch out for rattlesnakes! Stay out of the dunes and the snakes won't bother you.



Turtle Time

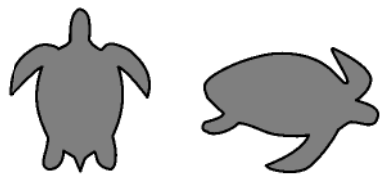
Padre Island National Seashore is a special place for a particular type of marine animal. Connect the dots to find the mystery critter that likes the national seashore!



What **mystery critter** likes Padre Island National Seashore?

What's the difference?! Look at the shapes below.

Sea Turtle



Land Turtle



What's the difference between a sea turtle and a land turtle? Do you think they eat the same things?

The national seashore is a special place for the Kemp's ridley sea turtle. This species of turtle is critically endangered. What does 'endangered' mean?

Do you think it's important to have places like Padre Island National Seashore? Why?

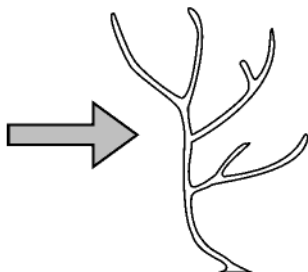


Protect The Beach

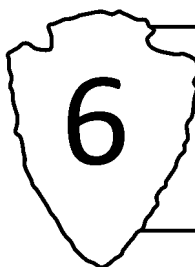
Trash washes into the Gulf of Mexico from rivers and streams. Everyday, strong ocean currents deliver a messy mix of marine debris to the beaches of Padre Island. You can help protect the environment by participating in your own beach clean-up.

Let's go clean the beach! Ask for a trash bag at the Malaquite Visitor Center front desk. Then collect as many kinds of trash off the beach as you can. When you're done, place the trash bag in a dumpster in the parking lot. Thank you!

If you see yellowish stuff that looks like this or like wire or thin rope, don't pick it up! It's not trash, it's a type of coral!



WARNING: Don't pick up broken glass, discarded needles, or other sharp objects, and avoid any metal drums, which might contain hazardous waste.



Arrowhead Design

The arrowhead is the symbol of the National Park Service and represents the resources national parks strive to preserve and protect! Although it has changed over the years, the arrowhead has been the official National Park Service emblem since 1951!



The **bison** represents wildlife.



The **mountain** represents scenery.



The **lake** represents water and recreational resources.

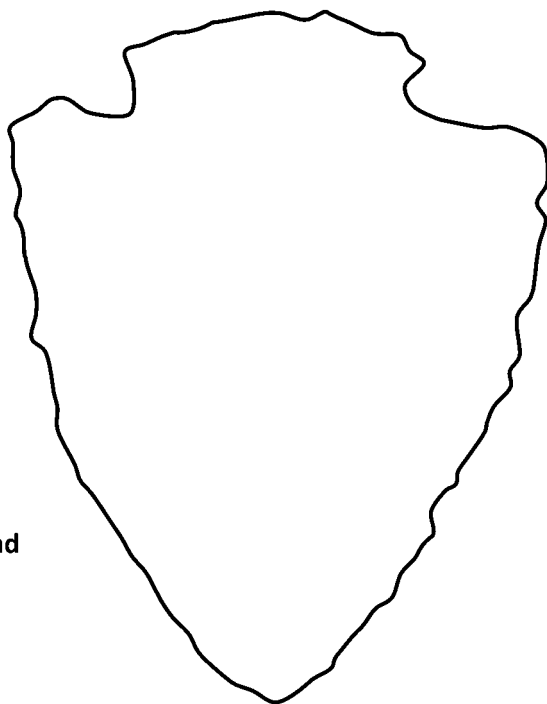


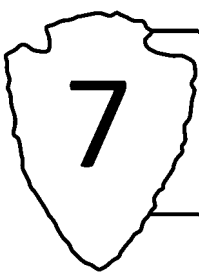
The **tree** represents vegetation.



The **arrowhead** represents culture and history.

Imagine that you're in charge of the National Park Service. Draw what you'd like to protect in your own arrowhead!





Seashell Search

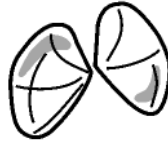
See if you can find any of the shells below on the beach. If you find a shell that has a critter still living in it or a brown sand dollar, make sure you gently place it back in the water!



Atlantic Cockle



Disc Dosinia



Coquina



Shark Eye Moon Snail



Saw-Toothed Pen Shell



Lightning Whelk



Sand Dollar



Lettered Olive



Bay Scallop



Scotch Bonnet



Sundial

Do you know the difference between a clam and a snail?

Do you know which shell is the state shell of Texas? If not, ask a ranger!



Did You Know? Shells are made by animals! At Padre Island, you can collect up to 1 gallons of shells, as long as they are empty. Don't pick up more shells than you need; leave some for animals like hermit crabs!

Extra credit: Can you find a seabeans? Seabeans are tropical seeds and fruits that are carried on ocean currents and wash ashore. Some come as far away as the Amazon! Some of the seabeans at Padre Island are starnut palms, hamburger beans, and sea hearts.



Hamburger Bean



Sea Heart



Starnut Palm



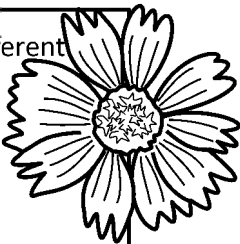
People Of Padre

Many people lived and worked on Padre Island before it was a national seashore. Learn about Padre’s past inhabitants by completing the activities below.

Among the first people to inhabit Padre Island were the **Karankawa Indians**. They came to the island each summer to hunt and fish. What do you think the park was like back then? Find a quiet space in the park and take time to explore and better understand the island around you.

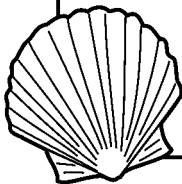
Listen: Find a quiet place to sit down and close your eyes. Listen to the sounds around you. Write down what you hear.

Smell: Describe some of the different scents you’re smelling.



Look: Study from a different angle. Look low to the ground. What do you see?

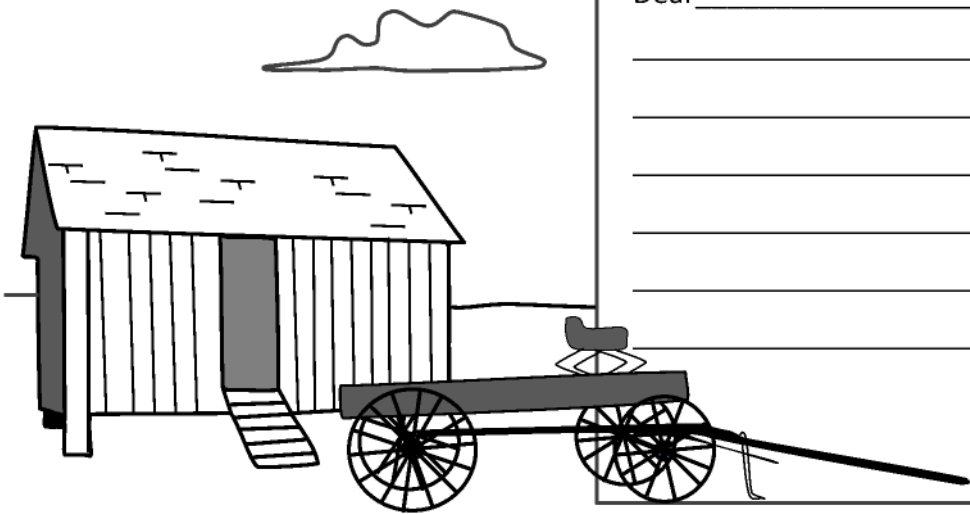
Touch: Gently feel some of the natural objects around you. Can you describe what they feel like?



Before becoming a national seashore, Padre Island was also a **cattle ranch**. A man named Patrick Dunn started ranching cattle on the island in 1879. Imagine you’re a ranch hand working for Mr. Dunn in 1880. Write a letter home describing your job. What other animals are on the ranch besides cattle? What do you do in your free time?

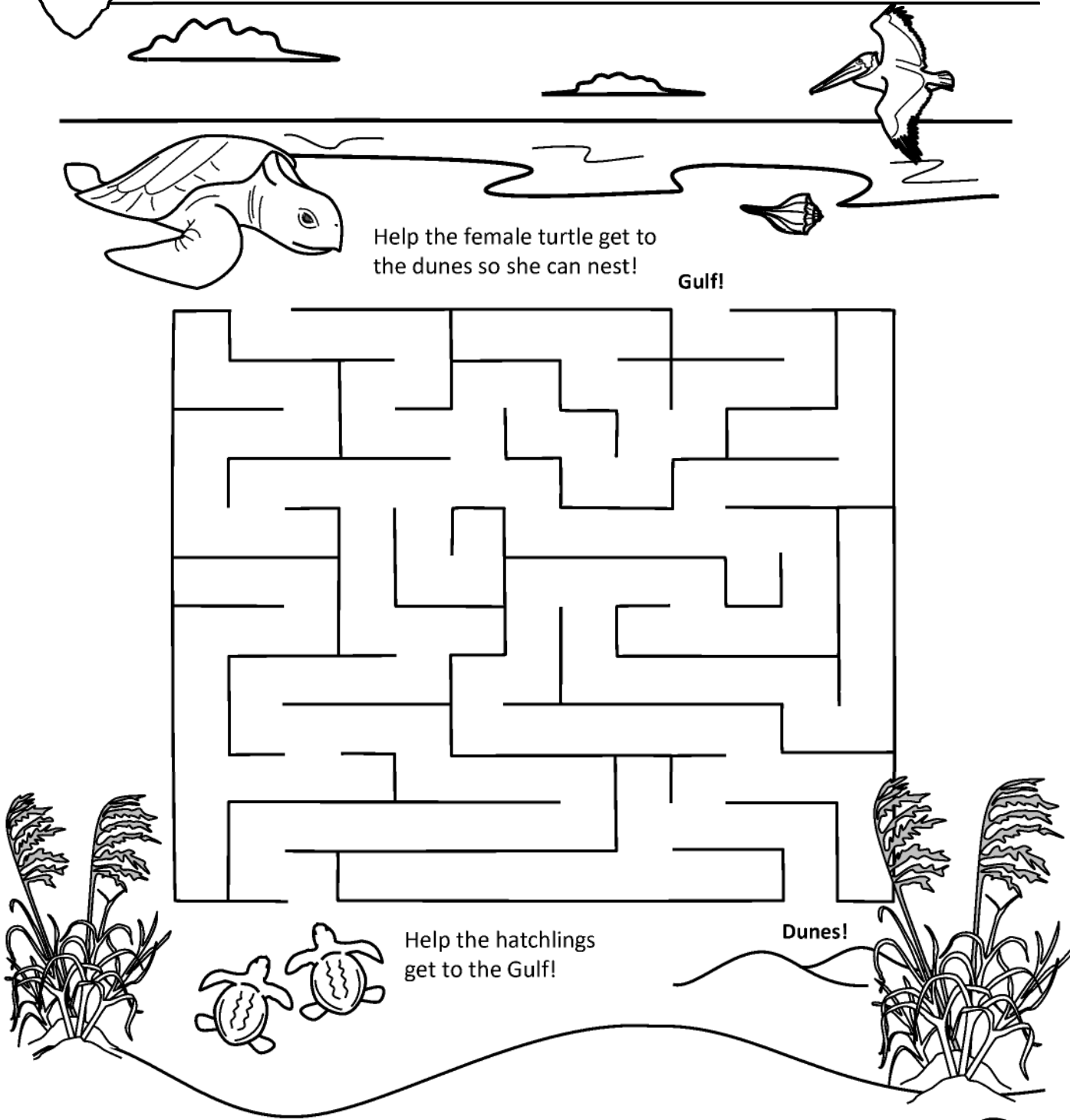
Dear _____

Sincerely,



“A-maze-ing” Turtles

The Kemp’s ridley sea turtle is the most common nesting turtle on Padre Island National Seashore’s beach. There are many dangers on the beach for nesting and newly hatched turtles. Help the turtles find their way through the maze so they can get to safety!



Did you know? Some sea turtles eat jellyfish! Turtles can’t tell the difference between plastic trash and jellyfish and sometimes eat plastic. **Help protect turtles** by throwing your trash away and recycling!



Coastal Prairie Word Search

The coastal prairie is home to thousands of plants and animals, but it is disappearing. Visit the Grasslands Trail near the park's entrance to experience this unique ecosystem!

Word List:

- Prairie
- Grasslands
- Cactus
- Agave
- Yucca
- Soil
- Habitat
- Ecosystem
- Fragile
- Disappearing
- Butterflies
- Songbirds
- Deer
- Badgers
- Gopher

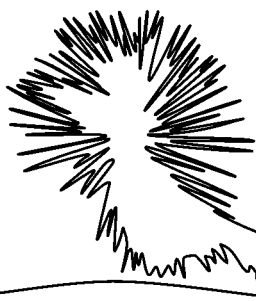
B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	I	E	S	G	A
A	H	P	R	A	I	R	I	E	D	N	H	L
D	F	A	R	D	E	F	L	N	I	C	A	T
G	R	G	D	D	S	R	A	R	G	N	S	C
E	A	A	B	T	E	L	A	B	O	D	O	A
R	G	V	G	P	S	E	O	I	P	R	N	C
S	I	E	O	S	P	O	R	T	H	O	G	T
F	L	B	A	P	R	D	I	S	E	A	B	U
V	E	R	A	G	E	U	A	L	R	E	I	S
E	G	S	R	H	A	B	I	T	A	T	R	H
C	I	O	L	T	N	Y	U	C	C	A	D	L
D	E	C	O	S	Y	S	T	E	M	G	S	O

Did you know? There is less than 1% of this rare ecosystem left.

How did the prairie become so rare? Agriculture, development, and overgrazing by cattle has led to a loss of habitat.

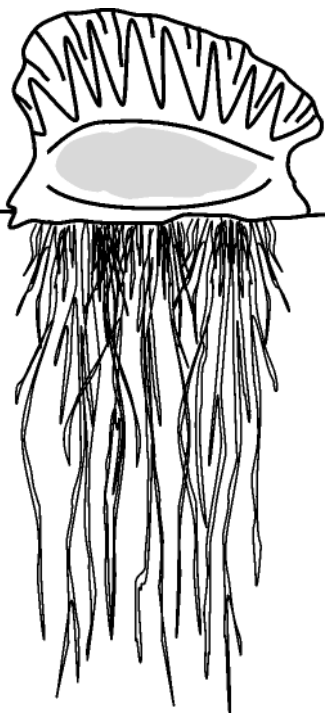
Why is the prairie so important?

The coastal prairie is a home to coyote, jack rabbits, songbirds, butterflies, white-tailed deer, snakes, and ducks as well as thousands of plant species!



A World of Jellies

Use the descriptions below to help you identify 6 jelly-like creatures found around Padre Island. Which ones should you avoid? **Circle the creatures** that would be painful to touch!



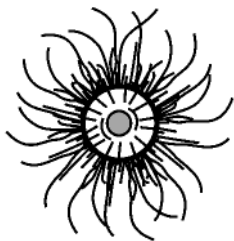
Portuguese Man-O-War has a blue balloon-like float and long tentacles. It can give people a *very painful sting*. But it isn't a true jelly! It's a siphonophore, a colonial organism made up of animals that work together.



The **Moon Jelly** is colorless and translucent with 4 horseshoe shaped markings in the center of the bell. They are relatively harmless but their sting can cause minor skin irritations if they are handled.



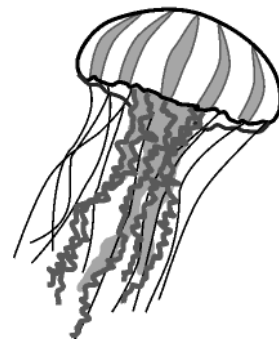
The **Cabbagehead Jellyfish** has a milky colored bell. If you touch one you might feel a mild tingle.



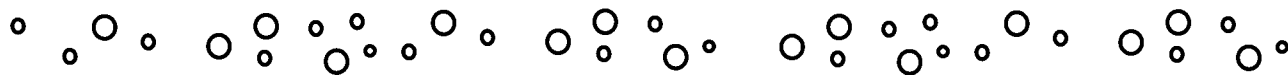
The **Blue Button** really looks like a little blue button! These siphonophores eat zooplankton and humans are not affected by their stinging cells.



The **By-the-Wind Sailor** is blue, has a flat fin, and is a siphonophore (like the Portuguese Man-of-War). Fortunately, the stinging cells have no effect on people.



The **Sea Nettle** can be clear or pinkish and has brown stripes. They can pack a *powerful sting* and are common during the summer in Laguna Madre and the Gulf of Mexico.



Exploring Jellies

Do you think a jellyfish is really a fish? Why or why not? _____

Is a Portuguese Man-of-War really a jellyfish? _____

What types of jellyfish or jelly-like organisms have you seen in the park? _____



PADRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE
JUNIOR RANGER



OFFICIAL CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that

has successfully completed the requirements of the
JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM

Congratulations!

*You are hereby designated an official Junior Ranger
in good standing with the National Park Service.*

Official Park Stamp

Park Ranger

Junior Ranger Stamp

**Did you finish your book after the visitor center closed?
Did you finish after you left the national seashore? Don't worry!**

To receive your Junior Ranger badge, email photos of your completed pages along with
your name and mailing address to:

PAIS_Visitor_Center @nps.gov

OR

Mail your completed book along with your mailing address to:

**Padre Island National Seashore
ATTN: Junior Ranger Program
P.O. Box 181300
Corpus Christi, Texas 78480**

Learn more about Padre Island National Seashore!

www.nps.gov/pais

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