

Environment is the word we use to describe the **WEATHER** — air, rain, winds — or the **LIVING CONDITIONS** in an area. It's important to understand the environment so we can learn how to **PROTECT** it. It's also important to know **WHAT TO EXPECT** from the environmental conditions so we will be prepared to make good **DECISIONS**. On this Expedition, we'll be exploring the Atlantic "Cup" coast, including the Gulf Stream and the Barrier Islands. It's okay to ask an older brother or sister, teacher or adult guide to help you figure out the answers to these questions.

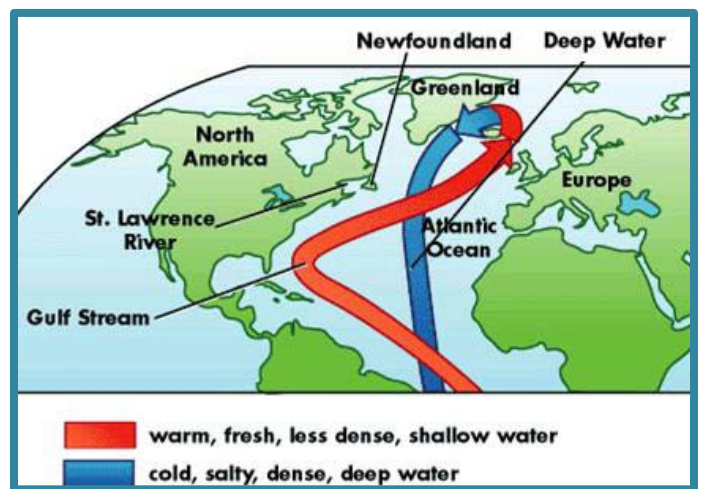
The Bodacious Dream crew needs your help to understand the Atlantic coastal environment. Come onboard!

The **GULF STREAM** is a powerful, warm, and swift Atlantic Ocean current that originates at the tip of Florida and follows the eastern coastlines of the United States and Newfoundland before crossing the Atlantic Ocean.

How **FAST** does the Gulf Stream move? _____

If we just floated in the Gulf Stream for 10 hours, how far would we travel with the current at 4 miles?

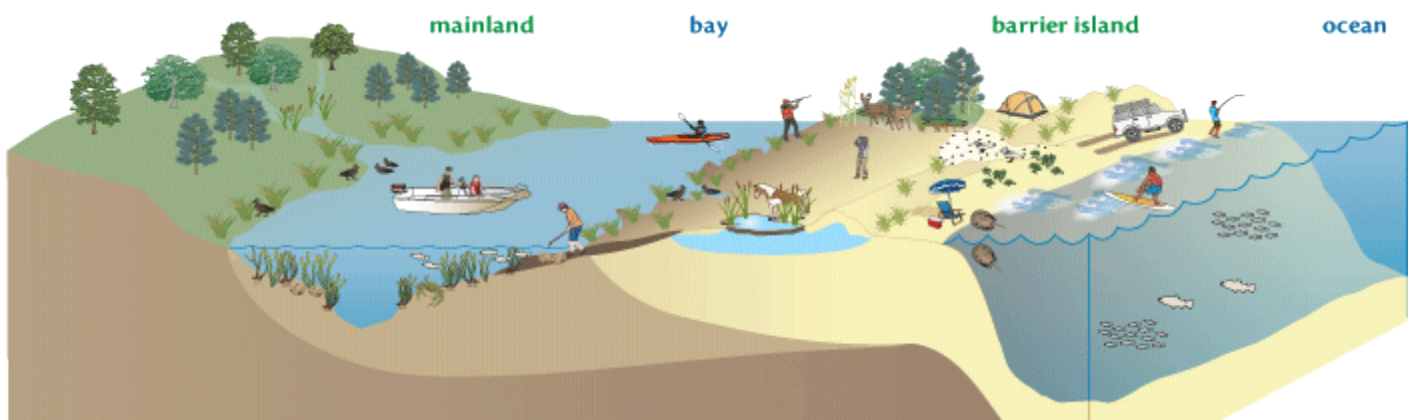
_____ × _____ = _____ miles



BARRIER ISLANDS

Barrier islands are narrow, long, islands of sand or sediment that parallel the coastline. Some barrier islands extend for 100 miles. The islands are separated from the mainland by a shallow **SOUND, BAY** or **LAGOON**. These islands are often found in chains along the coast. Tidal **INLETS** separate one island from another, such as in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

What makes up a barrier island? Sand Rocks Dirt Lava



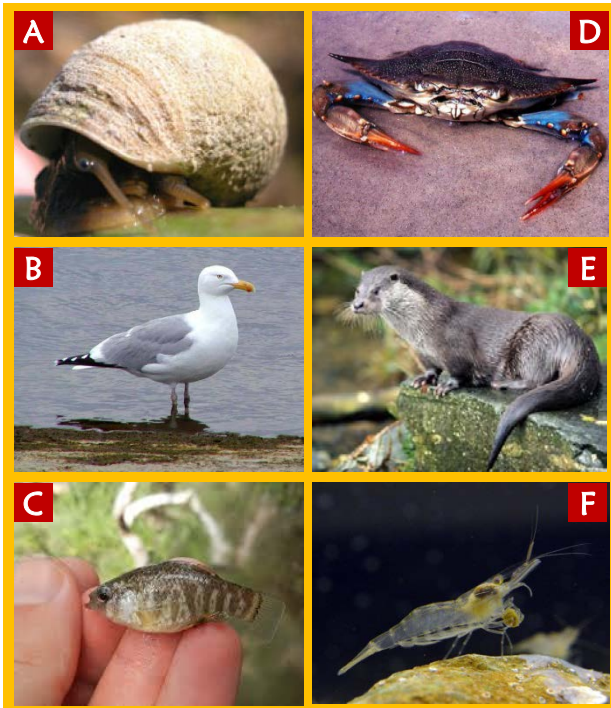
Barrier islands have very important functions along the coastline. Can you name two of them?

1 _____

2 _____



If you lived on a barrier island, how might the weather and the environment be different than what you would experience if you lived on the mainland? _____



What types of **ANIMALS** might you find in a salt marsh? Can you name these?

A _____ D _____
B _____ E _____
C _____ F _____

What organisms are the smallest ones in the food chain?

What do they eat?

BONUS

Which barrier island is the world's longest?

Which barrier island is the largest in the United States?

Which barrier island is home to many wild ponies?