



Audubon

ADVENTURES



Sharing Our Shores

What's better than a day at the beach? There's sand, sun, and lots of fun coastal creatures to watch! Look, a shiny sea lion hauls itself out to sunbathe next to some rocks. Within the rocks are tidepools filled with orange sea stars, blue sea anemones, and black barnacles. SPLASH! Offshore, a pelican dives in after its fishy prey. Down below, a manta ray glides along the green grassy seafloor. A sea turtle swims over it, heading up for a gulp of air. Back at the beach, dozens of small leggy birds called plovers skitter back and forth like speeded-up dancers. Their sandy stage is shared with side-walking crabs, half-buried clams, and bristly beach worms. A foamy wave slides up and covers the creatures, then slides away, leaving shells and seaweed behind.

The coast is where land and sea come together. The animals that live there get the best of both worlds. They nest on land, but most of their food comes from the ocean. This rich mixed habitat is what makes the seashore special. After all, a beach without wildlife is just a wet sandbox.

Land-Loving Coastal Birds

Even if you've never seen the sea, coastal birds are in your area sometime during the year. Shoreline-loving birds can be seen in all 50 states because many migrate between breeding and feeding grounds. Some shorebirds breed in prairie marshes or arctic tundra far from any ocean. The general routes large numbers of migrating birds travel along are called flyways.



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Design a Sign!

Chick and Egg Hunt



Audubon uses a map like this to divide the United States into flyways. Which flyway do you live in?

Help Make the Sea Trash-Free

The Ocean Conservancy believes that it's time to stop trashing the sea. The conservation group's leader, Vikki Spruill, says, "Ocean trash is human-generated, preventable, and one of the biggest threats to our ocean and waterways." So every year the Ocean Conservancy organizes the International Coastal Cleanup. People all over the world pitch in and clean up ocean waters. And you can too, no matter where you live. That's because a lot of the polluting trash in the sea comes from far inland. It travels to the ocean down storm drains, rivers, and other waterways. So participants in the International Coastal Cleanup clean up trash along lakes, streams, and rivers, too. How much trash? "Our volunteers picked up enough food packaging for a person to get takeout for breakfast, lunch, and dinner every day for the next 858 years," says Spruill. Want to help this year? Sign up for a site near you at signuptocleanup.org

Terrible Top 5



Beverage cans and bottles



Paper and plastic bags

In the 2011 Coastal Cleanup, 80% of what Ocean Conservancy volunteers found fell into these trashy categories.



Caps, lids, straws, stirrers



Cigarettes



Food wrappers/containers, cups, plates, utensils

Design a Sign

Signs made by kids have become an important way to educate coastal visitors. What message would you use to alert beachgoers to nearby nesting birds or sea turtles, or to encourage good beach stewardship in other ways?



To see a cool video about what one kid learned and did, go here: ca.audubon.org/protecting-western-snowy-plover



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We're correlated! For correlations to Common Core English Language Arts Standards and National Research Council National Science Education Standards, go to: education.audubon.org/state-standards-alignments

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