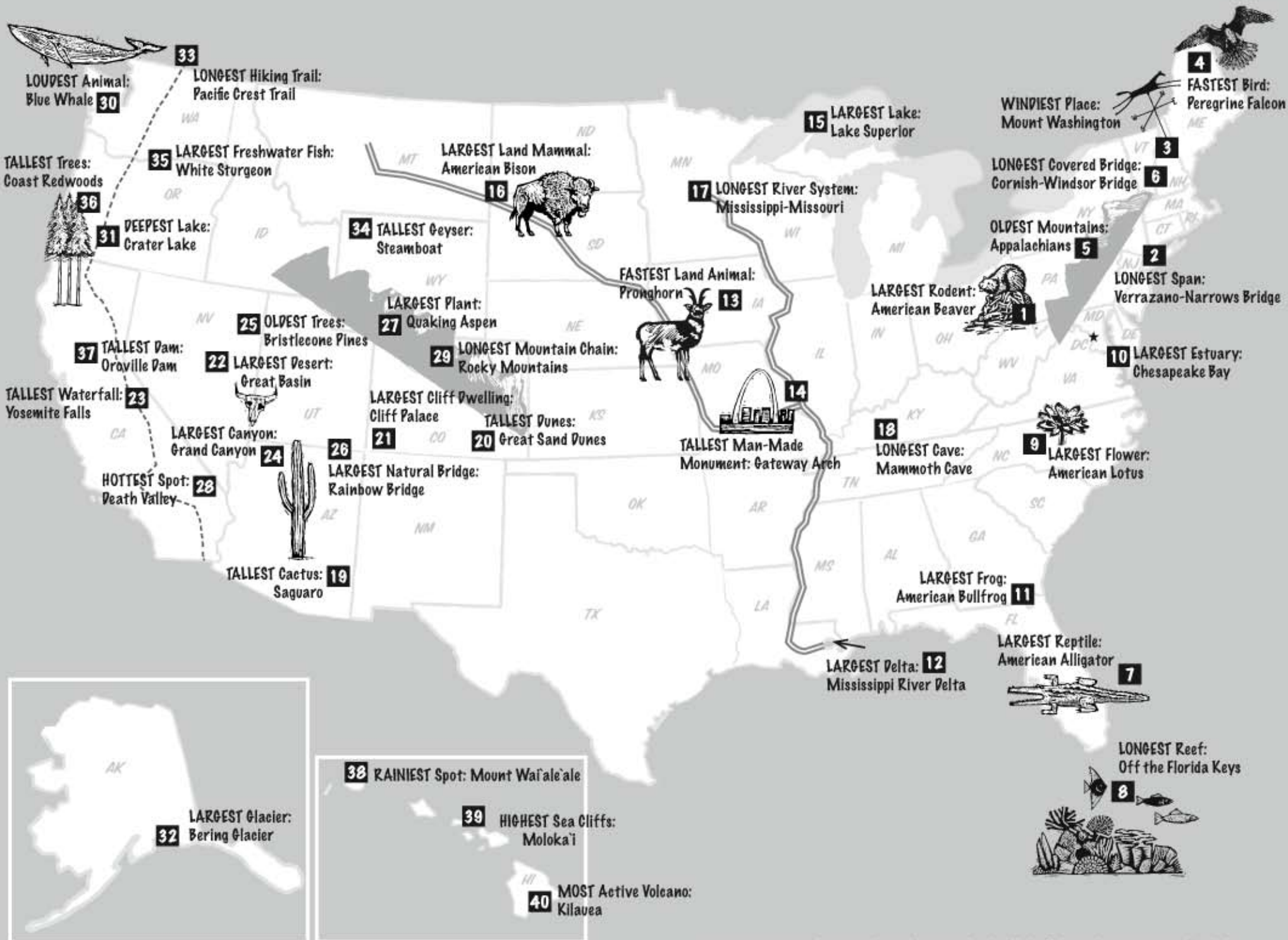


Meet the
WONDERS
of America

COLORING & ACTIVITY BOOK

 UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE®






Take a trip across the USA,
And color cool stamps as you go!
Here come your guides as you learn and play—
You might see someplace you know!



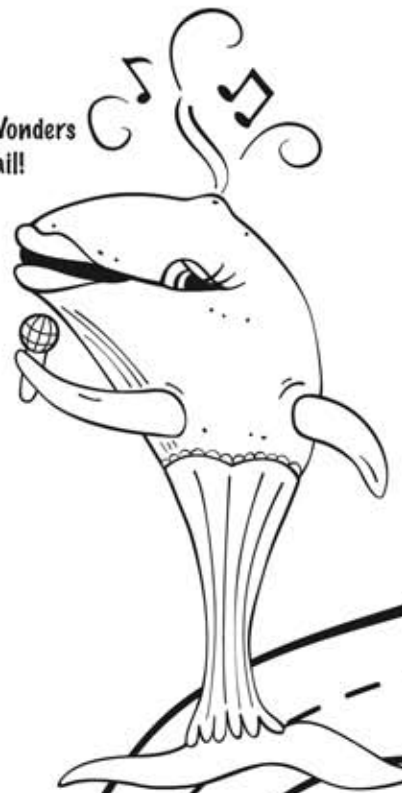
Discover new facts as you hang out with us
And enjoy our book of games.
Tour the biggest, wildest wonders
In the U.S. Hall of Fame!






I'm Chompers, an American Beaver.
I like to do science and math.
We'll explore the great Northeast—
Just follow my well-built path!


Meet your tour guides "THE WONDERS"




I'm Diva, the belle of the ocean!
And I am the world's largest whale.
I'll tell you of Pacific and Northwest Wonders
If you send a nice card through the mail!



Hey Ya! I'm a Gator named Scales!
In the Southeast you'll find my lair.
We'll explore the swamps and reefs
With a cool kind of musical flair.



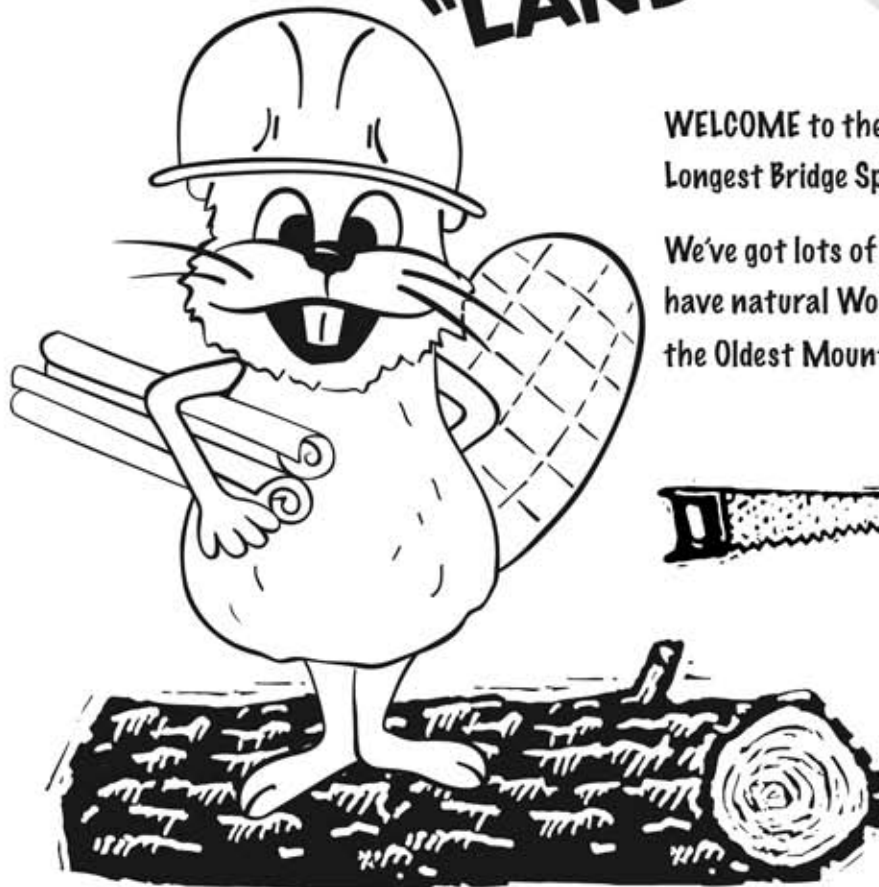
Zoom the Pronghorn, coming through!
In the Midwest I run my race.
I can talk as fast as I move—
Just try to keep up with my pace!



I'm Spike. I live in the Southwest.
I'm at home where it's hot and dry.
With my desert friends, for years on end,
I grow until I touch the sky!



NORTHEAST "LAND OF BUILDERS"



WELCOME to the Northeast! I live not far from the Longest Bridge Span—and the Longest Covered Bridge, too!

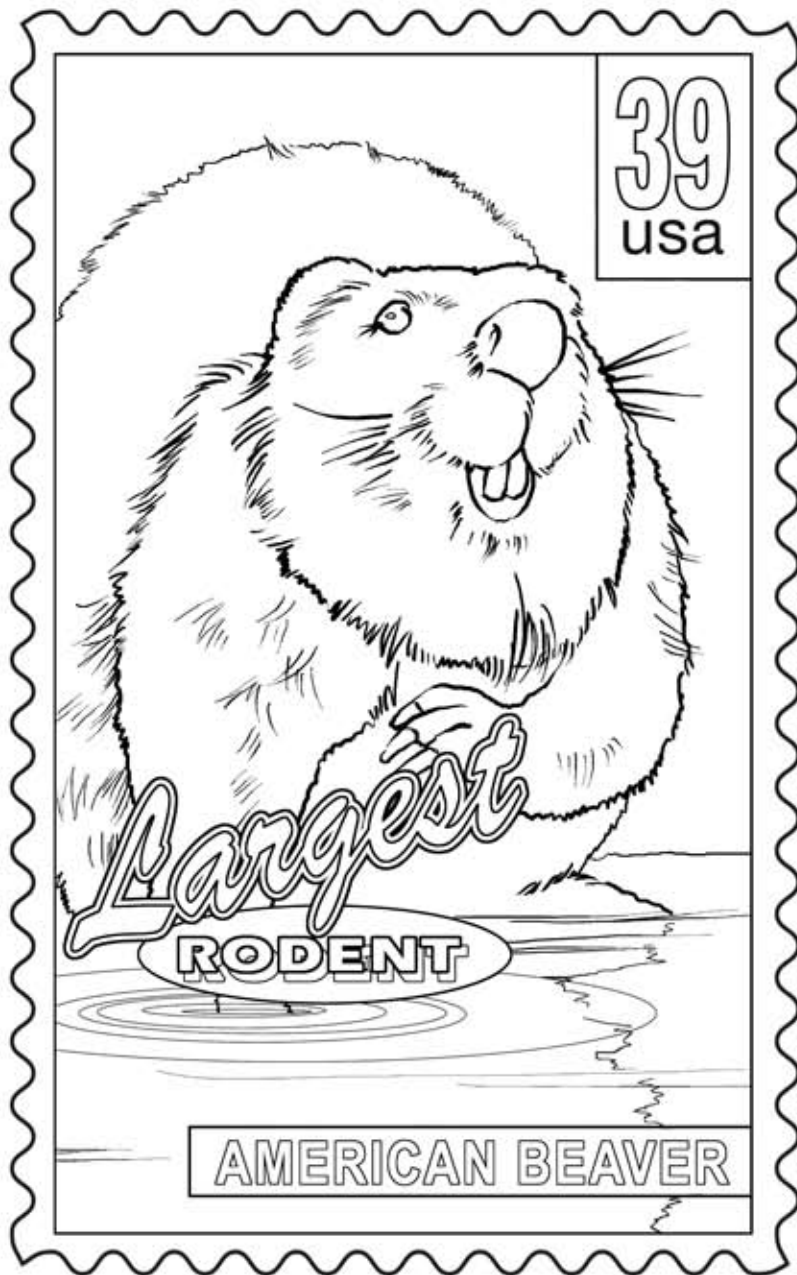
We've got lots of Wonders that people have built, but we have natural Wonders, too—from the Windiest Place to the Oldest Mountains. Come along and I'll tell you more!



WONDERS OF THE NORTHEAST

- 1 LARGEST Rodent: American Beaver
- 2 LONGEST Span: Verrazano-Narrows Bridge
- 3 WINDIEST Place: Mount Washington
- 4 FASTEST Bird: Peregrine Falcon
- 5 OLDEST Mountains: Appalachians
- 6 LONGEST Covered Bridge: Cornish-Windsor Bridge





LARGEST RODENT: AMERICAN BEAVER

The average adult beaver weighs between 35 and 40 pounds; the largest can weigh more than 60 pounds and be 3 feet tall when standing on its hind legs. Though their long front teeth look menacing, beavers are peaceful creatures.



LONGEST SPAN: VERRAZANO-NARROWS BRIDGE

The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, connecting Brooklyn and Staten Island, is named after Giovanni da Verrazano, a European explorer who sailed into the area in 1524. Two towers, each 693 feet tall, stand 4,260 feet apart; the bridge's total length is 13,700 feet.



WINDIEST PLACE: MOUNT WASHINGTON

The summit of Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, holds the official record for the maximum wind gust ever recorded on land—and not associated with a tornado or hurricane. On April 12, 1934, an anemometer recorded a wind gust of 231 mph.



FASTEST BIRD: PEREGRINE FALCON

When diving after prey, the peregrine falcon is the world's fastest bird, reaching speeds of 200 miles an hour or more. Its horizontal cruising speed is considerably slower. Other birds, such as pigeons and ducks, are the falcon's usual prey.

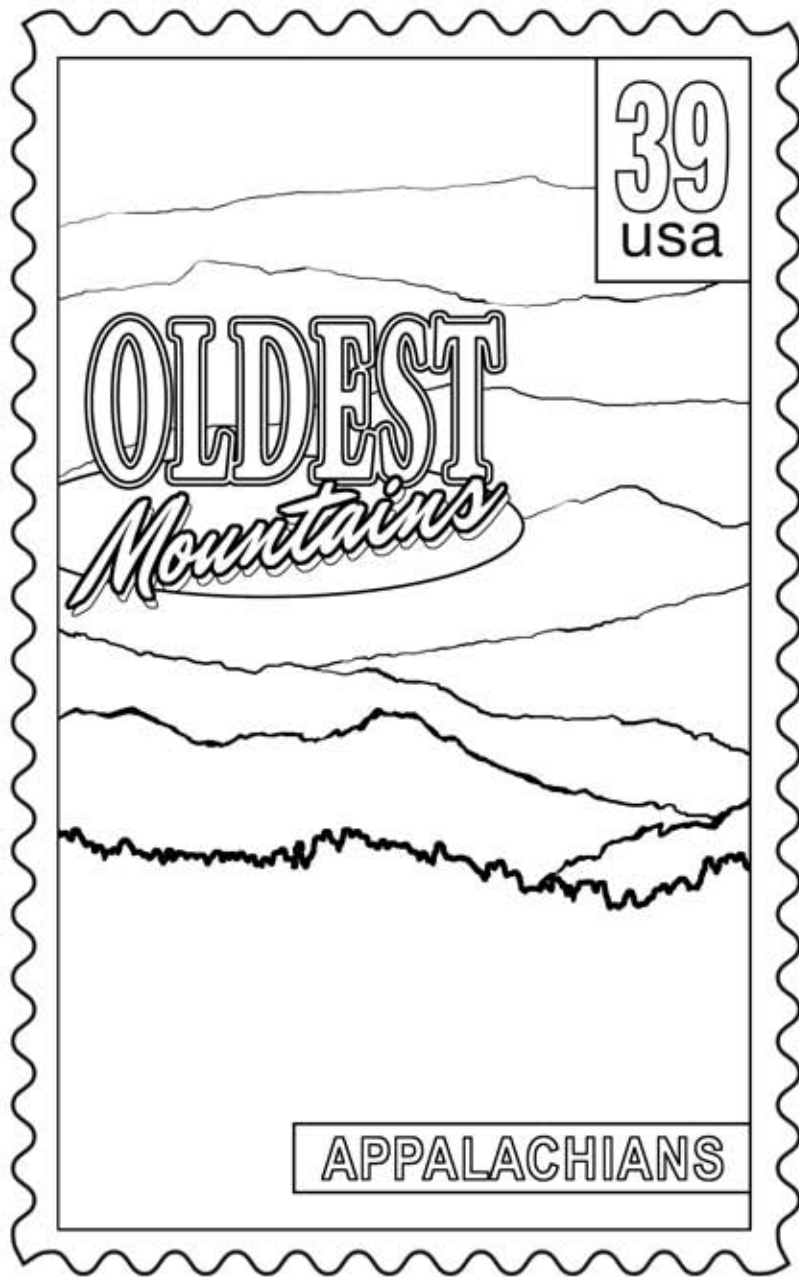
Find the FALCONS



Which birds are the peregrines? Find and circle the peregrine falcons flying above the mountains.

How many peregrines did you circle? _____





OLDEST MOUNTAINS: APPALACHIANS

The Appalachian Mountains stretch along the East Coast in a southwesterly direction from Canada to Alabama. Many geologists estimate that the birth of this mountain chain took place nearly half a billion years ago, when tectonic plates collided.



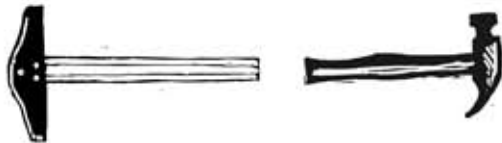
LONGEST COVERED BRIDGE: CORNISH-WINDSOR BRIDGE

This landmark bridge accommodating two-way vehicular traffic between the towns of Cornish, New Hampshire, and Windsor, Vermont, is about 450 feet long. It was constructed in 1866, at a cost of \$9,000, and was a toll bridge until 1943.

WONDER BUILDER WORD SCRAMBLE

Do you know what an engineer does? I'm one.
I can build dams with sticks and mud. Other engineers build rockets, computers, bridges, and a whole lot of different things.

Lots of Wonders were built by engineers.
To learn what they are, unscramble these mixed-up words.



Tallest Dam:
RILLVOOE ADM

Tallest Man-Made Monument:
ETAWYAG CRAH

Longest Span:
RRAZAVONE - RAOWSNR RIBDEG

Largest Cliff Dwelling:
LFCIF ACELAP



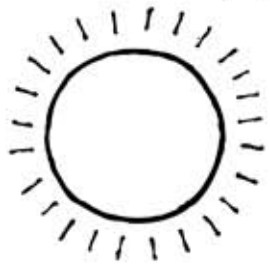
I'm writing a postcard to my good friend Scales! He's the Largest Reptile—the American Alligator!

Hey Scales!

You live near the Longest Reef.
What do a dam and a reef have in common?

Your Friend,
CHOMPERS





The sunny
SOUTHEAST
 welcomes you!

They look a bit different
 Just like you and me,
 But a reef and a dam
 Are alike, I can see!

They both hold back water
 To give the fish a place to play.
 And when it's time for dinner,
 They create an all-you-can-eat buffet!



Here in the Southeast, there are lots of water Wonders—
 including me, the American Alligator, the Largest Reptile! Let's take a look.



**WONDERS OF
 THE SOUTHEAST**

- 7** LARGEST Reptile: American Alligator
- 8** LONGEST Reef: Off the Florida Keys
- 9** LARGEST Flower: American Lotus
- 10** LARGEST Estuary: Chesapeake Bay
- 11** LARGEST Frog: American Bullfrog
- 12** LARGEST Delta: Mississippi River Delta





LARGEST REPTILE: AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

Most adult male alligators are about 11 feet long and weigh 450 to 600 pounds. The largest gator on record, however, measured more than 19 feet in length. Alligators are found in swamps, marshes, rivers, and lakes from Texas to the Carolinas.



LONGEST REEF: OFF THE FLORIDA KEYS

The Florida Keys, a chain of islands approximately 220 miles long, curve south and west of mainland Florida. Stretching along beside them, about six miles seaward, is a long barrier reef. Coral reefs are actually colonies of tiny animals called coral polyps.



LARGEST FLOWER: AMERICAN LOTUS

Solitary and fragrant, the American lotus flower may reach 10 inches in diameter; its single round leaf can reach more than 2 feet in diameter. The lotus grows in ponds, lakes, and streams, and was a source of food for American Indians.



LARGEST ESTUARY: CHESAPEAKE BAY

Chesapeake Bay cuts across Maryland and Virginia; it is almost 200 miles long and from 3 to roughly 30 miles wide. The surrounding area encompasses a range of environments, allowing a diverse assortment of plants and animals to flourish.

WHAT IS AN ESTUARY?

You say it like this: ESS-chuh-WHERE-ee! It's a place where fresh water (the kind in lakes and rivers) and salt water (the kind in the ocean) mix and mingle.

That's why so many plants, animals, birds, and fish—about 3600 different kinds—live in or near the Chesapeake Bay. Sharks, dolphins, crabs, turtles, and the American bald eagle are just a few you may find.

But the Bay creatures need our help to keep the water clean and healthy. Here's how it works. If I dam up a stream that leads into the Bay and eat all the fish, the bald eagle might not find enough fish to feed its young. And if you throw trash into the water, it could hurt the creatures in an estuary.

So let's all make a deal to be careful.

Thanks,

CHOMPERS



Try this Estuary QUIZ



1. The Chesapeake Bay is bordered by the two states of V_____ and M_____.
2. The Chesapeake Bay is almost 2__ miles long.
3. Creatures in the Bay can be hurt if you throw t_____ in the water upstream.
4. An estuary has both s___ and f___ water.

Who Doesn't Belong in the Bay?

Cross out the animals that you won't find in or near the Chesapeake Bay.





LARGEST FROG: AMERICAN BULLFROG

American bullfrogs can reach more than six inches in length; males weigh up to one pound, and their calls can be heard from a quarter mile away. Adults are predatory and will consume snakes, birds, fish, insects, and even other frogs.



LARGEST DELTA: MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA

The Mississippi River delta, where the mouth of the river meets the Gulf of Mexico, covers approximately 11,000 square miles, roughly a quarter of the state of Louisiana. The delta gradually changes form as sediment deposited by the river builds up.

SWAMP STOMP



Put on your big boots to search for these creatures hiding
in the swamp. Circle these when you find them:

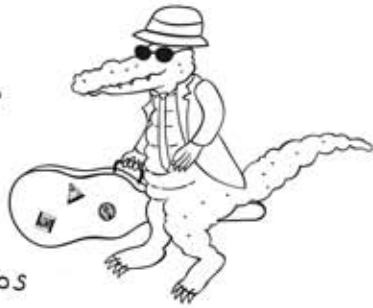
*TURTLE, BEAR, SKUNK, SNAIL, OTTER,
SNAKE, CRANE, FROG, ALLIGATOR*



Let's CRUISE!

Now it's time
To take a trip
From my Southeast home
Up the Mississipp!

Get on board
And fill in the gaps
While you count the stops
On this Wonder map!



1 Largest Delta:
M _____ River Delta

2 Longest Cave:
M _____ Cave

3 Tallest Man-Made Monument:
G _____ A _____

4 Longest River System:
M _____ -M _____

5 Largest Lake:
Lake S _____



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