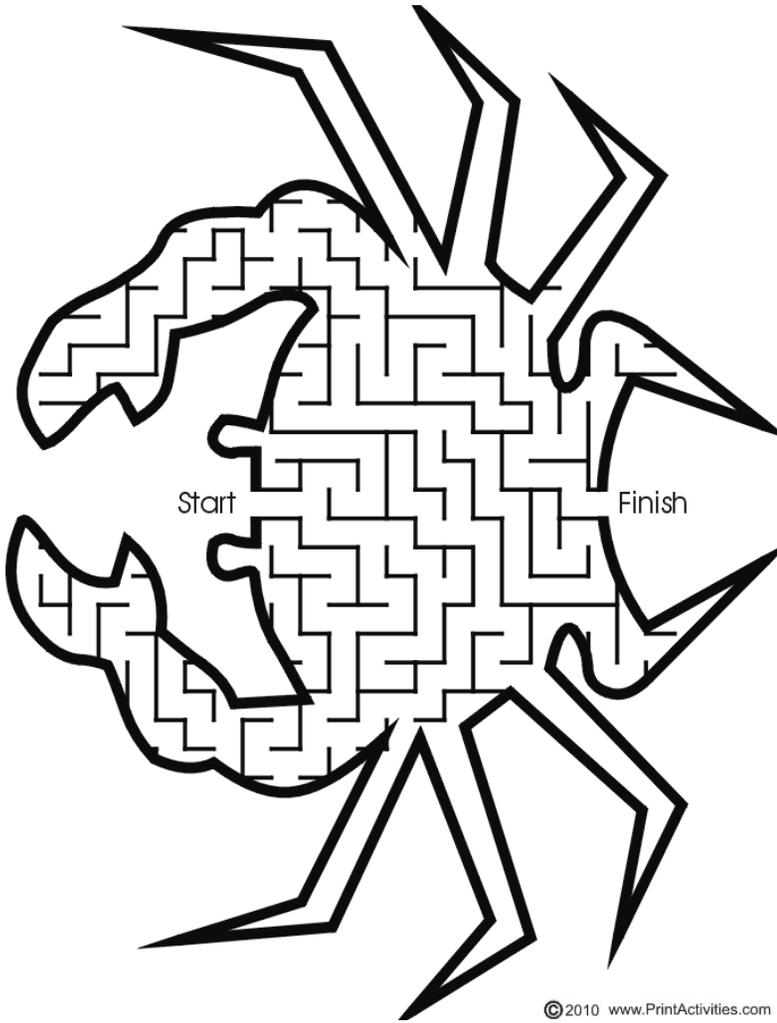
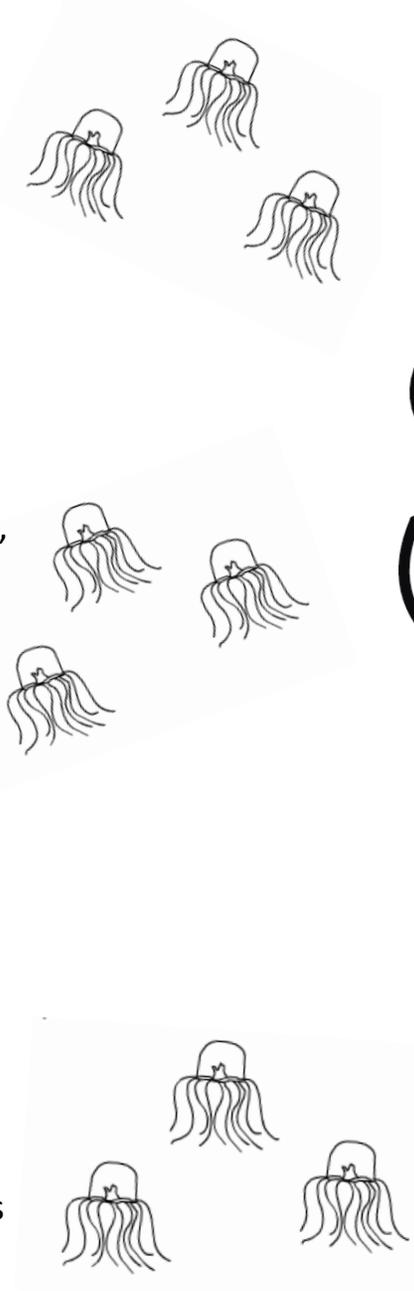


True or False:

- 1) The Gulf of Mexico is the largest gulf in the world.
True False
- 2) Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and Florida all border the Gulf of Mexico.
True False
- 3) Like other octopi, the blanket octopus releases ink when alarmed.
True False
- 4) Cetaceans are the order of animals that include dolphins, whales and sea turtles.
True False
- 5) Sailors once mistook manatees for mermaids.
True False
- 6) Like land turtles, sea turtles can tuck their heads in their shells.
True False
- 7) Five of the world's seven species of sea turtles can be found in the Gulf of Mexico.
True False
- 8) The world's 3rd largest barrier reef is the Florida Barrier Reef.
True False
- 9) The largest member of the dolphin family are called orcas and are also known as killer whales.
True False
- 10) Bull sharks can survive in freshwater as well as saltwater.
True False



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BONUS:

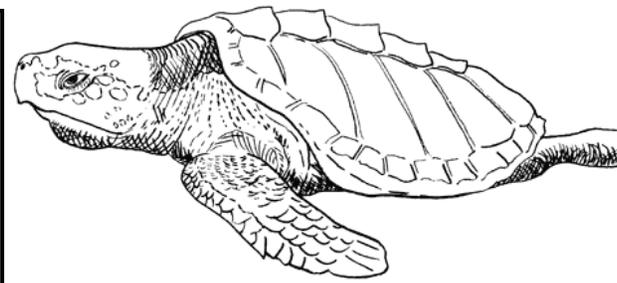
The whale shark is the largest fish in the world. The _____ is considered the second largest fish in the world.

- A) manta ray
- B) box jellyfish
- C) basking shark
- D) giant starfish

Mad Lib:
My Underwater Adventure

One day, _____ and I decided to go on a dive to see
(name)
what animals lived in the Gulf of Mexico. So, he/she put on his
_____ and I pulled on my _____. We
(article of clothing) (article of clothing)
boarded the _____ and dove underwater. At first,
(type of transportation)
it was hard to _____. There was _____ water
(sense) (color)
everywhere! Then, as our _____ adjusted, we could
(part of the body on your head)
begin to see many things. There was a _____ foot long
(number)
octopus feeding on a _____ crab. We quickly took a
(color)
picture and drove the _____ even deeper. A few
(type of transportation)
_____ -fin tuna were chasing a school of _____.
(color) (type of fish)
They swam so _____ as they herded their prey. But, lurking
(adverb)
behind the _____ -fin tuna was a(n) _____ shark.
(color) (noun)
He slowly swam in _____ (s) and looked at _____
(shape) (name of a friend)
hungrily. That's when we decided it was time to _____.
(action verb)
We quickly surfaced and wrote down all of the _____.
(adjective)
things we had seen on our adventure. We couldn't wait to
share our _____ and pictures with our friends back in
(plural noun)
_____.
(state bordering the Gulf of Mexico)

THE END.



FAST FACTS:

Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle

- The world's most endangered sea turtle.
- Found primarily in the Gulf of Mexico .
- The smallest of the sea turtle species.

Answers to True/False:

- 1) True, around 615,000 miles of water!
- 2) False, the North American states that have coastlines on the gulf are: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama & Florida. Georgia does not touch the gulf.
- 3) False, when threatened. the female blanket octopus unfurls her 'flags' to make herself look larger and more threatening.
- 4) False, cetaceans are marine mammals with flippers & fluke. Sea turtles are not cetaceans, but whales, dolphins and porpoises are.
- 5) True, manatees might not look like mermaids to us, but many years ago sailors mistook manatees for legendary mermaids. Christopher Columbus was the first person to record the sighting of a manatee in the new world and was surprised at the not-so-beautiful "mermaid". Manatees are actually distant relatives of elephants !
- 6) False, it is a myth that all turtles can tuck their heads in their shells. All land turtles can but not sea turtles. Sea turtles have eyelids that offer them protection from the sunlight. They can see very well in the water but not on land. They are also color blind!
- 7) True, the leatherback, the hawksbill, the green, the loggerhead and the Kemp's ridley sea turtles can all be found in the Gulf of Mexico.
- 8) True, the Florida Barrier reef is the 3rd largest in the world. The gulf is also home to The Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Texas . It is North America's northernmost tropical reef system and a popular destination for scuba divers.
- 9) True, killer whales or orcas, are members of the dolphin family. They are actually the largest of the dolphins.
- 10) True, bull sharks have adapted their kidneys and a special organ and recycle salt in their bodies. This helps them retain the salt content of their cells in freshwater. They actually prefer 'brackish' water which is a mix of salt and freshwater. Scientists have documented bull sharks swimming up the Mississippi River as far north as Illinois! Do you think there may be some here in Baton Rouge???

BONUS: (C) the basking shark. The whale shark can grow to lengths of 65 feet and the basking shark can grow to lengths of 40 feet. The interesting thing is that both of these huge fish are filter feeders and eat the smallest of marine life: tiny fish & plankton.

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