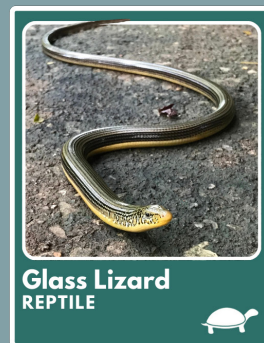
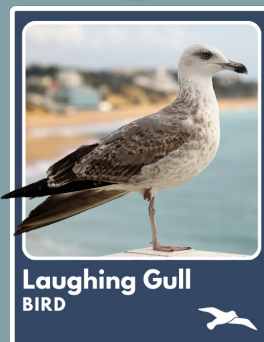


# TEAM PLAYERS

Try to find these common coastal critters.



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# THE MIGHTY MARITIME

Coastal barriers, like salt marshes and maritime forests, act as our defensive line against severe storms, erosion, and sea-level rise. On your adventure today, discover the importance and beauty of these unique landforms.



# THE DEFENSIVE LINE

Coastal barriers not only protect the mainland, but they also provide unique habitats for plants and wildlife. What will you see in this ever-changing landscape?

## 1 BARRIER ISLAND

Barrier islands break up large storm surges and shield the mainland from wind and water erosion. Species that live here must tolerate salt spray, strong winds, sandy soil, and limited freshwater. A barrier island can also have other coastal barriers on it depending on its size.

WAX MYRTLE



YAUPON HOLLY



WHITE BEGGAR-TICKS



## 2 DUNES

Dunes act as a wall against strong winds and high tides, taking the brunt of most storms. Though dunes may shift in the sand, plants with deep root networks, like sea oats, provide stabilization and minimize wind erosion.

FIREWHEEL



SEA OATS



## 3 MARSH

Salt marshes change daily with the tides and can tolerate extra water flow, decreasing inland flooding. Plants found here are salt-tolerant and help filter out pollutants and excess runoff during storms.

SEA OX-EYE



SALT MARSH CORDGRASS



NEEDLEGRASS RUSH



## MARITIME FOREST

Maritime forests further weaken storm surges and strong winds. The dense vegetation stabilizes the soil and absorbs rain and excess floodwater. This habitat is dependent on dune formations - without these barriers, the entire coastline is at risk.

LIVE OAK



SPANISH MOSS



LOBLOLLY PINE



BALD CYPRESS

