

# For Creative Minds

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## Mary Had a Little Clam

The muscular “foot” of a clam is used mainly for digging, but can sometimes be used for “creeping” or even “leaping” away from predators. Clams are bivalves; they have two shells attached by a hinge. Their shells grow with them as they grow – just as our bones grow as we do! Many people enjoy eating steamed clams—do you?



## Jack & June

Some sand dunes just don’t want to stay put! Jockey’s Ridge, the largest sand dune on the East Coast, moves three to six feet a year, covering up everything that stands in its way. Sand dunes can be next to the ocean, lakes, in the desert, or even in the mountains!



## Buoys & Gulls

Buoys mark deep water channels for boaters or mark fishing or lobster traps. Buoys can also be used to measure weather information.

As a black-headed laughing gull wheels through the air with a loud “ha-ha-ha,” it sounds as if he’s mischief. Perhaps he’s delighted by his tasty diet of fish, garbage, sewage, and scraps from fishing



up to  
boats!

## Sing a Song of Sixpence

Don’t ever let a brown pelican ask you to dinner. He might expect you to dive headfirst into the ocean, scoop up fish with your mouth, and then swallow them whole! Peanut butter is made from peanuts but jelly isn’t made from jellyfish—it’s made from fruit like grapes or strawberries.



## Row, Row, Row Your Boat

While boating in the Everglades, you might bump into an alligator—or even an American crocodile! Alligators live in fresh water and have wide, U-shaped, rounded snouts. Crocodiles live in salt or brackish water and have longer, more pointed, V-shaped snouts.



## One Flamingo

Animals groups have many different names: families, pods, skeins, herds, dens, flocks, and hordes are just a few.



## Hatteras Light Is Falling Down

In 1999, the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, the tallest lighthouse in the United States, was moved over half a mile inland to keep it from falling into the sea due to beach erosion. The move took 23 days.

## An Old Woman who Lived in a Shell

Would you believe that oysters start off their lives footloose and fancy-free? Young oysters float around until they begin to grow a shell, then they drop to the bottom and form a reef with other oysters. It seems that when oysters meet, they grow quite attached to each other! An oyster “group” is called a “bed.”





## Lobster Pies

To avoid being eaten, a lobster should stay out of the kitchen—and the parlor. Lobstermen call the front of the lobster trap the kitchen, and the back is called the parlor! Lobsters found in New England have front claws with pinchers, unlike the Spanish lobsters found in southern waters.

## Ride a Wild Mare

What do “saltwater cowboys” do each July? They round up ponies on Virginia's Assateague Island and herd them across the channel to Chincoteague for the volunteer fire department's pony auction. The ponies that aren't sold swim back home. Wild horses also live on North Carolina's Outer Banks and Georgia's Cumberland Island and are believed to be descendants of horses that survived shipwrecks by swimming ashore.



## Lydia Gail

Legend says the Indian giant Maushop dumped the sand out of his moccasin to form Nantucket Island. What happened to the sand from his other moccasin? That became Martha's Vineyard. Both islands are part of Cape Cod.



## The Witch of November, 1913

Violent autumn storms that batter the Great Lakes are called “November Witches” or “White Hurricanes.” The Great Storm of 1913 killed over 270 people and sank 12 ships, only seven of which have been found. Another November Witch sank the Edmund Fitzgerald in 1975.



## Sleep Baby Sleep

Just how fast does the Mississippi flow? A raindrop falling on the headwaters in Lake Itasca, Minnesota, would take about 90 days or three months to travel the 2,350 miles (3,781 km) to the Gulf of Mexico. The invention of the steamboat changed transportation of people and products! Now ships could go upriver as easily as they could go downriver.



## Two Skippers from Texas

Did you know Texas once had its own Navy? Of the four original ships, one was wrecked in a storm, one was wrecked in battle, one was captured by Mexico, and one was sold because the Republic of Texas couldn't pay for repairs!



## I Saw A Ship A-Sailing

Covered wagons were sometimes called prairie schooners, and a schooner is a type of sailboat. Pioneers often chose to walk beside their wagons—and it's no wonder; it is said that the ride was so bumpy, a bucket of milk could churn itself into butter before the day was done.



## Tweedle-Dum & Tweedle-Dee

Despite its massive size, an orca killer whale is quite agile and can reach speeds of 30 miles per hour. The vegetable, okra, on the other hand, grows in gardens!



## Hark, Hark!

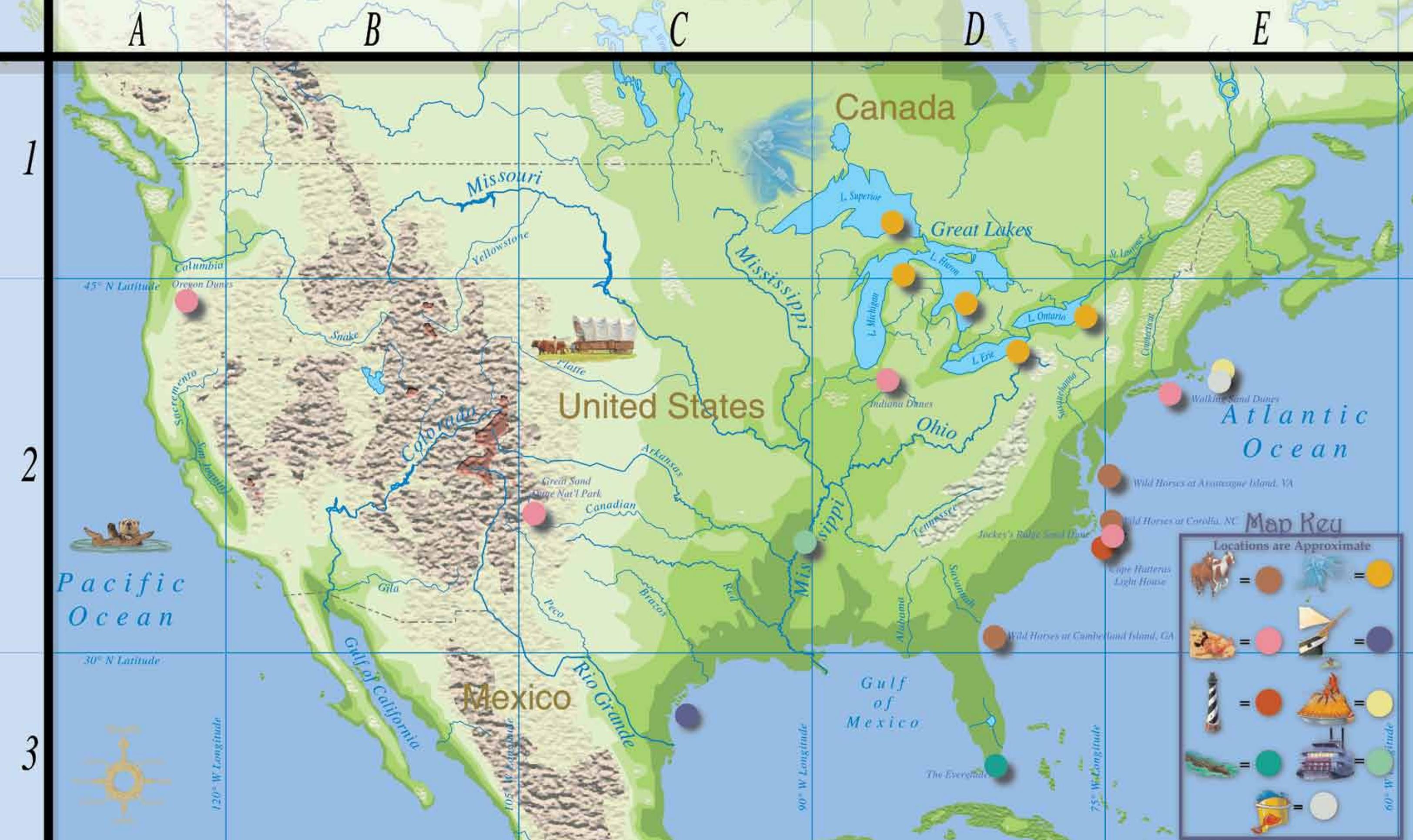
Even the most rambunctious sea otter has to sleep sometime. So how does he keep from drifting away from his family? He wraps himself in the long strands of kelp that are anchored to the sea floor. Sea otters can be found in the Pacific Ocean but not the Atlantic Ocean.



## Twinkle, Twinkle

Most people think of asteroids circling the sun. But did you know that "asteroid" is also the scientific name for most common sea stars?





A

B

C

D

E

1

2

3

Canada

United States

Mexico

Great Lakes

Atlantic Ocean

Pacific Ocean

Gulf of Mexico

Map Key

Locations are Approximate

	=			=	
	=			=	
	=			=	
	=			=	
	=			=	

45° N Latitude

30° N Latitude

120° W Longitude

105° W Longitude

90° W Longitude

75° W Longitude

Columbia

Oregon Dunes

Sacramento

San Joaquin

Snake

Colorado

Gila

Gulf of California

Missouri

Yellowstone

Platte

Great Sand Dune Nat'l Park

Canadian

Pecos

Brazos

Rio Grande

Mississippi

Mississippi

Tennessee

Alabama

Georgia

The Everglades

L. Superior

L. Huron

L. Michigan

L. Erie

L. Ontario

Indiana Dunes

Ohio

Jockey's Ridge Sand Dune

Wild Horses at Assateague Island, VA

Wild Horses at Corolla, NC

Cape Hatteras Lighthouse

Wild Horses at Cumberland Island, GA

Walking Sand Dunes



## Map Activity Questions

Use the map and compass rose to answer the following questions. Answers are upside down on the bottom of the page.



1. What is the name of the country north of the United States?
2. What is the name of the country south of the United States?
3. Are the Great Lakes north or south of the Gulf of Mexico?
4. Is Nantucket (represented by Lydia Gail's bucket) on the East or West Coast of the United States?
5. Find the covered wagon on the map. What are the grid coordinates?
6. Find the Everglades (represented by the crocodile) on the map. What are the grid coordinates?
7. Find the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse on the map. What are the grid coordinates?
8. In which direction would you have to go to travel from the Florida Everglades to see the Cape Hatteras lighthouse?
9. Is the sea otter in the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean?
10. Into what body of water does the Mississippi River flow?
11. How many sand dunes are marked on the map? Are they all by the ocean?
12. How many Great Lakes are there, and what are their names?



## Poem-Related Questions

1. How long did it take Mary's clam to get to school (September to July)? Why do you think it took so long?
2. Why do you think the Hatteras Lighthouse started falling down? Do you think it was easy to move it? Why or why not?
3. Would an old lady living in a shell use oyster beds? What are oyster beds? Would you like to sleep on one?
4. What do you think the "Witch of November, 1913" was?
5. What type of "ship" sailed across the prairies?

## Food for Thought

The poems relate in some way to water: oceans, bays, lakes, or rivers. Why do you think water is so important to us?

How did people in history (natives and early settlers) use water?

Do we use it in the same way today?



Map Activity Answers: 1: Canada; 2: Mexico; 3: north; 4: east; 5: 2C; 6: 3D; 7: 2D; 8: northeast; 9: Pacific Ocean; 10: Gulf of Mexico; 11: 5 - no; 12: 5 - Lakes Superior, Huron, Michigan, Erie, & Ontario  
Poem-Related Answers: 1: nine months, clams don't move very quickly; 2: beach erosion; 3: the place where oysters grow; 4: a violent storm that can be near hurricane force; 5: covered wagons.