



## Explore Chesapeake Bay Treasures

The Chesapeake Bay is rich in history and natural beauty. It is the largest estuary in the United States and home to a huge number of plants, animals and people.

GUIDELINES: Based on the grid, complete the number of activities for your grade level.

	DISCOVER	CONNECT	TAKE ACTION	ANY ACTIVITY UNDER ANY KEY	TOTAL NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0	3
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2	5
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3	6
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5	8

### DISCOVER

- What is an estuary? How big is the Chesapeake Bay compared to other estuaries in the United States? Locate the Chesapeake Bay on a map.
- What is a watershed? Our nation's capital, Washington D.C., is in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. List the six states also included in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Oysters are an example of a keystone species. Define keystone species. Identify why oysters are considered a keystone species.
- Blue crabs are the most recognizable crustacean in the Chesapeake Bay. What are five characteristics of crustaceans?
- Draw and label a picture of a male and female blue crab.
- Horseshoe crabs are found in the lower and middle portions of the Chesapeake Bay. While their name implies they are a crab that actually are not related to crabs. Find out what animal they are more closely related to and what taxonomic class they belong in. What are three characteristics of this class?

### CONNECT

- The Chesapeake Bay has changed significantly in the last 300 years. Identify three ways people use the Bay today. Why are oysters and blue crabs in the Chesapeake Bay important to people?
- Using a map, locate where your troop meets and the closest body of water to that location (remember to look for small creeks and rivers, too). In which watershed are you located? What activities are happening near your location that might impact the health your watershed?
- Horseshoe crabs are very common in the Chesapeake Bay. Find out why they are so important to human health. What important fluid do biomedical technicians harvest from horseshoe crabs and how is it used?
- Submerged underwater vegetation (SAV) is vital to the health of the Chesapeake Bay. Identify three ways reasons why these plants are important. What can people do to help protect the Bay's plants?

## TAKE ACTION

- Participate in a trash cleanup of a beach, river, or creek in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. What other service projects could your troop do to help improve or protect the Chesapeake Bay?
- Identify an animal that once lived in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and is now locally extinct. Identify three Chesapeake Bay animals that are currently listed as endangered. Brainstorm ways to protect or educate others to protect them.
- Horseshoe crabs do much for the health of humans. Write a song, poem, or skit showing your appreciation for them.
- Take a look around your neighborhood. What activities do you see that might be harming your local watershed? Brainstorm ideas to improve your neighborhood watershed. Ask a parent/guardian to help you put at least one of these improvements into action.
- Striped bass are a great example of a conservation success story. Their population numbers were in serious decline in the 1980s, but after the implementation of special fishing regulations, their numbers have rebounded. Research another animal that is overfished and/or endangered and then come up with a conservation plan to help it recover.

The Explore Chesapeake Bay Treasures patch activities was developed as a Silver Award project by Cadette Troop 435 of the Kings Grant Service Unit in Virginia Beach.

### Resources:

<https://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

<http://www.cbf.org/>

[www.chesapeakebay.net](http://www.chesapeakebay.net)

<https://chesapeakebay.noaa.gov>