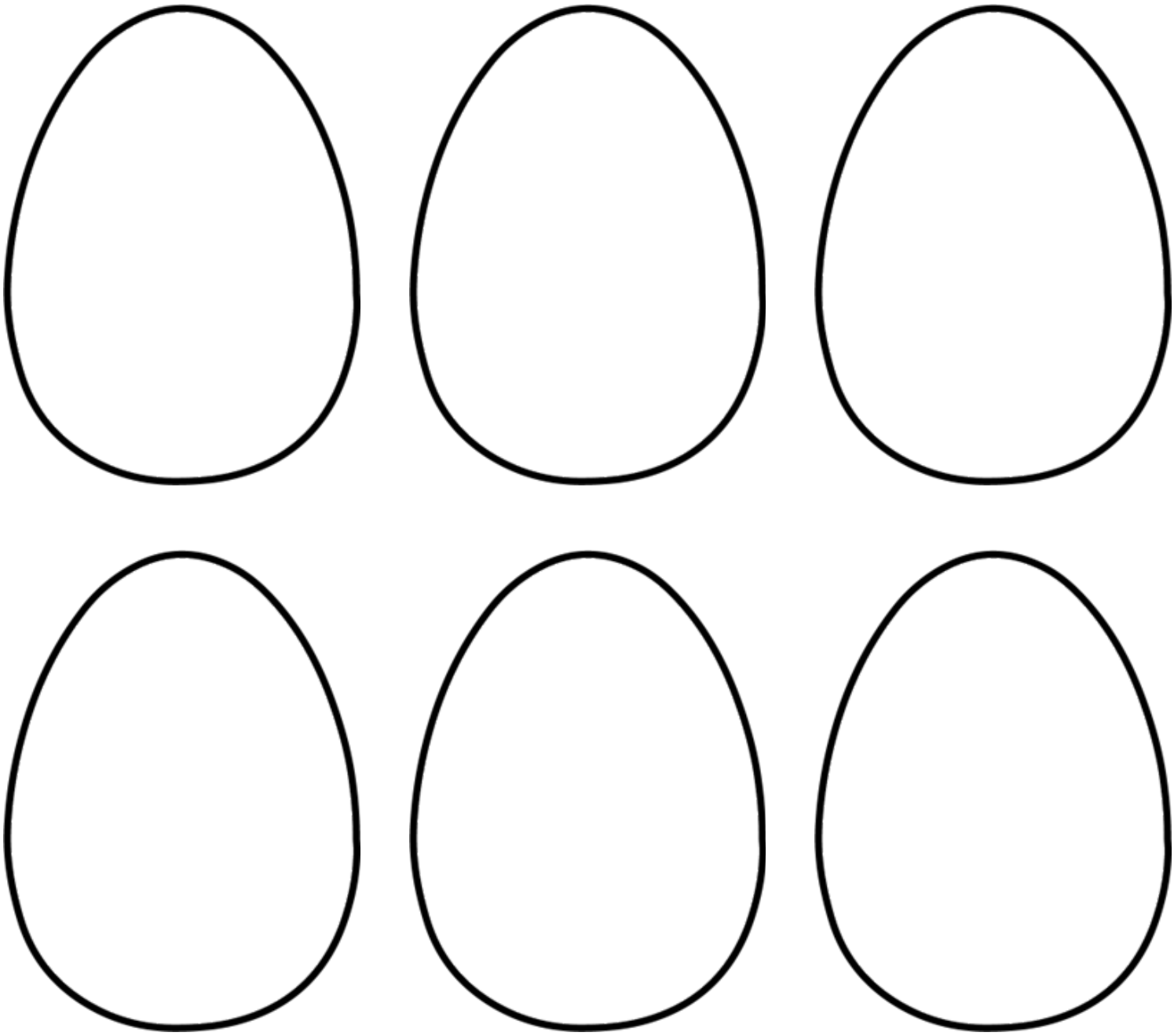
Egg Pattern: Activity Sheet 1.1



What Can I Eat with This Beak?

BEAK TYPE	FOOD ITEMS: Worms	Snails	Crustaceans	All Food Types
Tweezers				
Scissors				
Spoon				
Clothespin				

Beak Sheet Worksheet: Activity Page 1.5

What Can I Eat With This Beak?

Activity Instructions

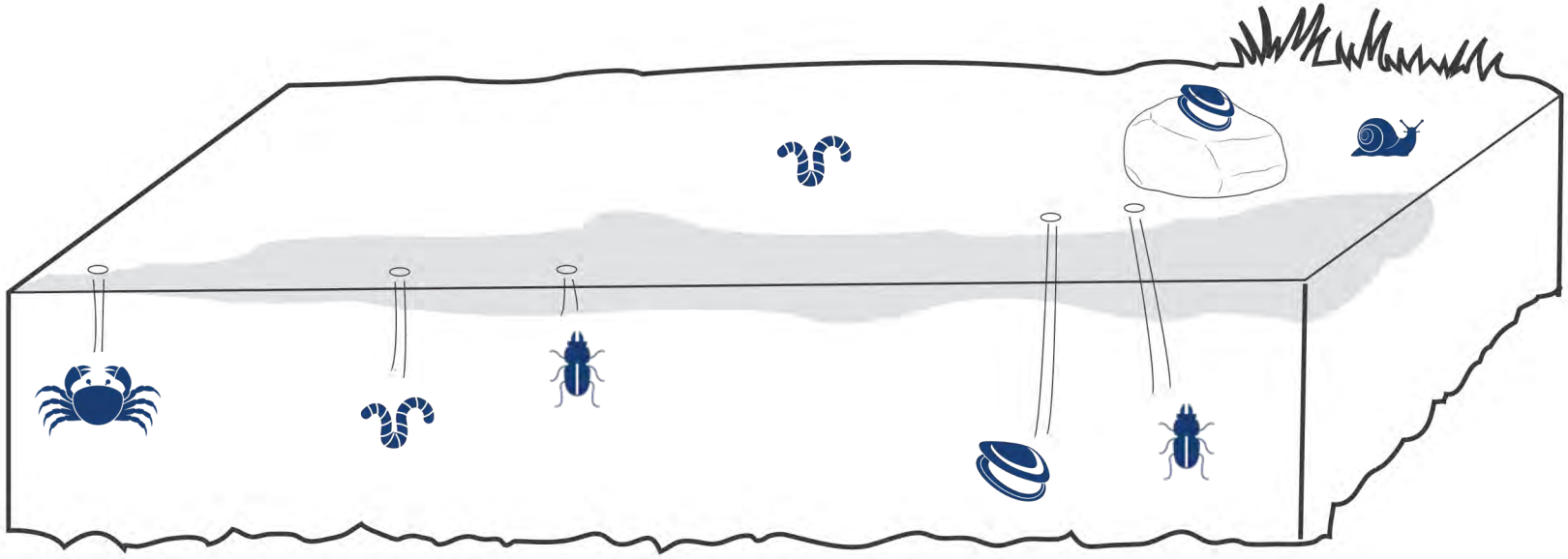
In a wetland or on a beach food is everywhere. Even though you cannot easily see it – shorebirds can!!! Each shorebird species has a uniquely adapted beak to find its food. Below is a picture of a beach with food buried in the soil. Your task is to read the clues for each of the shorebirds species and choose which food item in the picture you think the bird is best adapted to eat.

Whimbrel: I am a whimbrel. I use my down curved bill to probe deeply into the mud for my food.

Hudsonian Godwit: My bill is very long which means I can reach food in the mud that other shorebirds can't.

Semipalmated Sandpiper: Some people think my beak looks like tweezers when I eat. I probe the mud on and near the surface.

American Oystercatcher: My super strong bill helps me eat my favorite food oysters and other mollusks.



Beaks Activity: Activity Sheet 1.6 **ANSWER SHEET**

What Can I Eat With This Beak?

Whimbrel: I am a whimbrel. I use my down curved bill to probe deeply into the mud for my food.

Hudsonian Godwit: My bill is very long which means I can reach food in the mud that other shorebirds can't.

Semipalmated Sandpipers: Some people think my beak looks like tweezers when I eat. I probe the mud on and near the surface.

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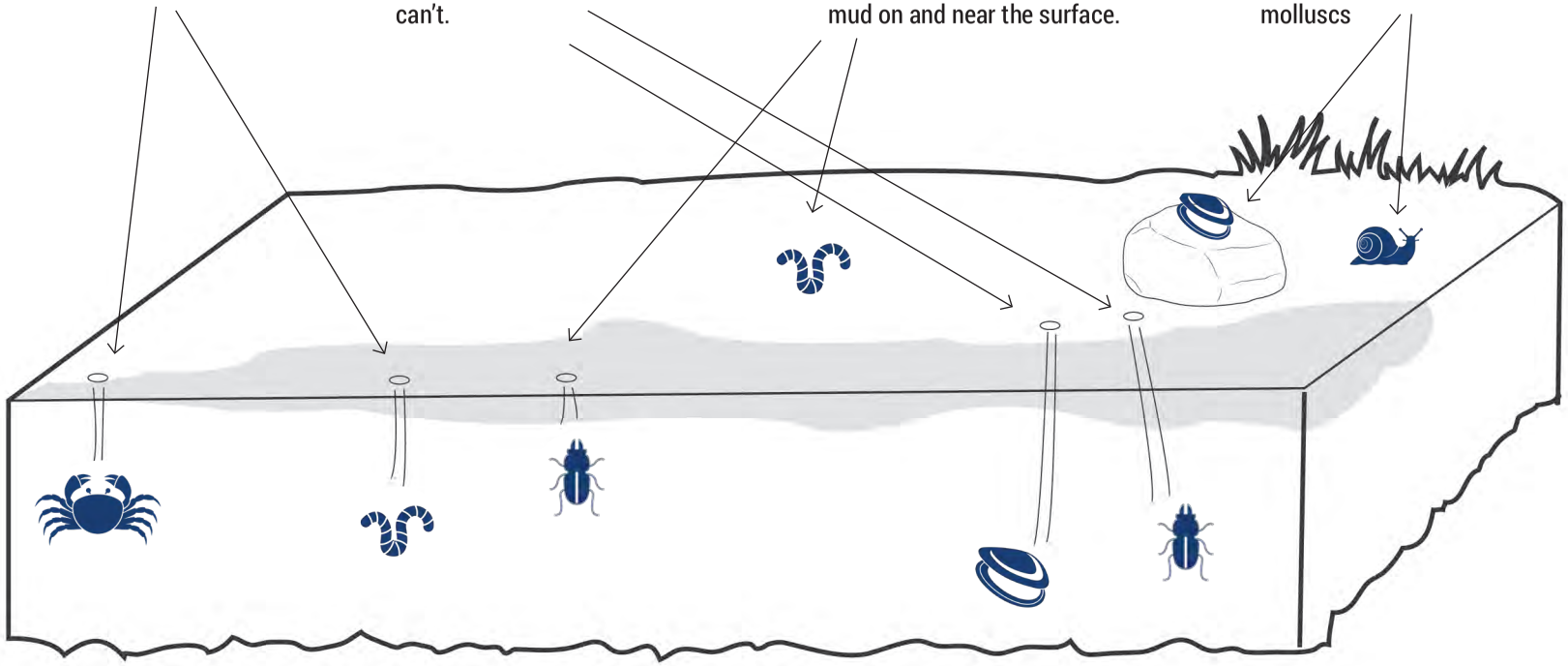


Student Name

Date

Shorebird Adaptations: Fabulous Feet

Name of Shorebird
(from Shorebird Card)

_____

Look at the Shorebird Card and examine the legs and feet of your shorebird. For each of the traits listed below, check the best answer(s).

Leg Length

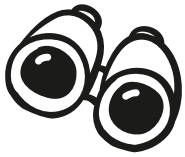
◯ Short ◯ Medium ◯ Long

Leg Color

◯ Dark ◯ Sandy

◯ Brightly colored ◯ Other

Foot shape



◯ Webbed ◯ Lobed

◯ Long toes ◯ Can't tell

Is there anything else you notice about the legs and feet of your shorebird?

_____

_____

_____

How do you think your shorebird uses its legs and feet?

_____

_____

_____

What would be an example of a good habitat for this shorebird, based on its legs and feet?

_____

_____

_____

What can legs and feet tell us about how a shorebird moves and eats?

_____

_____

_____

Salt Marsh Habitat

Salt marshes are coastal wetlands - lands that are sometimes flooded by salt water, and sometimes dry. Salt marshes have a very special type of soil known as peat - the thick peat layer acts like a sponge to hold water, so that even when the tide is out, salt marshes are never completely dry. Peat is also very good at absorbing water during floods - this is why salt marshes protect coastal lands during storms and very high tides. Salt marshes are also great filters- they improve water quality by removing pollution.

Salt marshes are important habitats! Salt marshes provide food and shelter to many animals, including shorebirds. They are full of many different types of food that shorebirds like to eat, including crabs, insects, snails, and fish.

Image credits: O. McCrosson, CC BY-SA 4.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

TYPE OF FOOD	NUMBER TO ADD TO SALT MARSH
Crabs	10
Horseshoe crab eggs	1
Insects	8
Snails	5
Worms	1
Clams & Oysters	3
Brine flies	3
Brine shrimp	5

Mud Flat Habitat

Mud flats are muddy areas that are covered in water at high tide, and exposed at low tide. Mud flats build up in protected areas, where very small sediment particles can settle out in the calm waters. Mud flats may seem barren, but they are full of life! Mud flats are home to many snails, worms, crabs and other invertebrates.

Mud flats are important habitats! Mudflats provide food and shelter to many animals, including shorebirds. They are the perfect location for some of the foods that shorebirds rely on like crabs, insects, snails, worms and clams and oysters.

Image credits: Paxson Woelber, CC BY 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

TYPE OF FOOD	NUMBER TO ADD TO MUD FLAT
Crabs	3
Horseshoe crab eggs	0
Insects	5
Snails	7
Worms	8
Clams & Oysters	8
Brine flies	0
Brine shrimp	0

Grassland Habitat

Grasslands are large, flat areas dominated by grass with little annual rainfall. Depending on the amount of moisture and rainfall these habitats get, grasslands can be composed of tall grass or short grass. Grasslands are important to both humans and wildlife. Grasslands are home to an abundance of insects, worms and berries.

Grasslands are important habitats! Grasslands provide food and shelter to many animals, including shorebirds. They are loaded with food like insects, worms and berries.

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TYPE OF FOOD	NUMBER TO ADD TO GRASSLAND
Crabs	0
Horseshoe crab eggs	0
Insects	10
Snails	0
Worms	4
Clams & Oysters	0
Brine flies	0
Brine shrimp	0

Sandy Beach Habitat

Sandy beaches are sandy areas that are covered in water at high tide, and exposed at low tide. Sandy beaches are composed of fine, loose sediment that shifts with waves and wind creating a unique landscape of beaches and dunes. Sandy beaches are full of life as the ocean meets the land to create ideal habitats for clams, oysters, snails and crabs.

Sandy beaches are important habitats! Sandy beaches provide food and shelter to many animals, including shorebirds. They are full of many foods that shorebirds rely on like crabs, horseshoe crab eggs, snails, worms and clams and oysters.

Image credits: Sandra Richard, CC BY-NC 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>, via Flickr.

TYPE OF FOOD	NUMBER TO ADD TO SANDY BEACH
Crabs	3
Horseshoe crab eggs	10
Insects	0
Snails	2
Worms	4
Clams & Oysters	2
Brine flies	0
Brine shrimp	0

Salt Lake Habitat

Salt lakes are inland, land-locked lakes that contain concentrations of salt. Salt lakes get their salinity from trapped minerals that dissolve in the lake over time. Salt lakes create unique habitats that allow the animals adapted to live in them to thrive. Salt lakes do not have a large variety of food for shorebirds, but they do have an incredible abundance of brine flies and brine shrimp, making them an important stopover site for migratory birds.

Salt lakes are important habitats! Salt lakes provide food and shelter to many animals, including shorebirds. They are home to only a couple of food sources like brine flies and brine shrimp, but they sure do have a lot of them!

Image credits: tom_stromer, CC BY-NC 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/2.0/>, via Flickr.

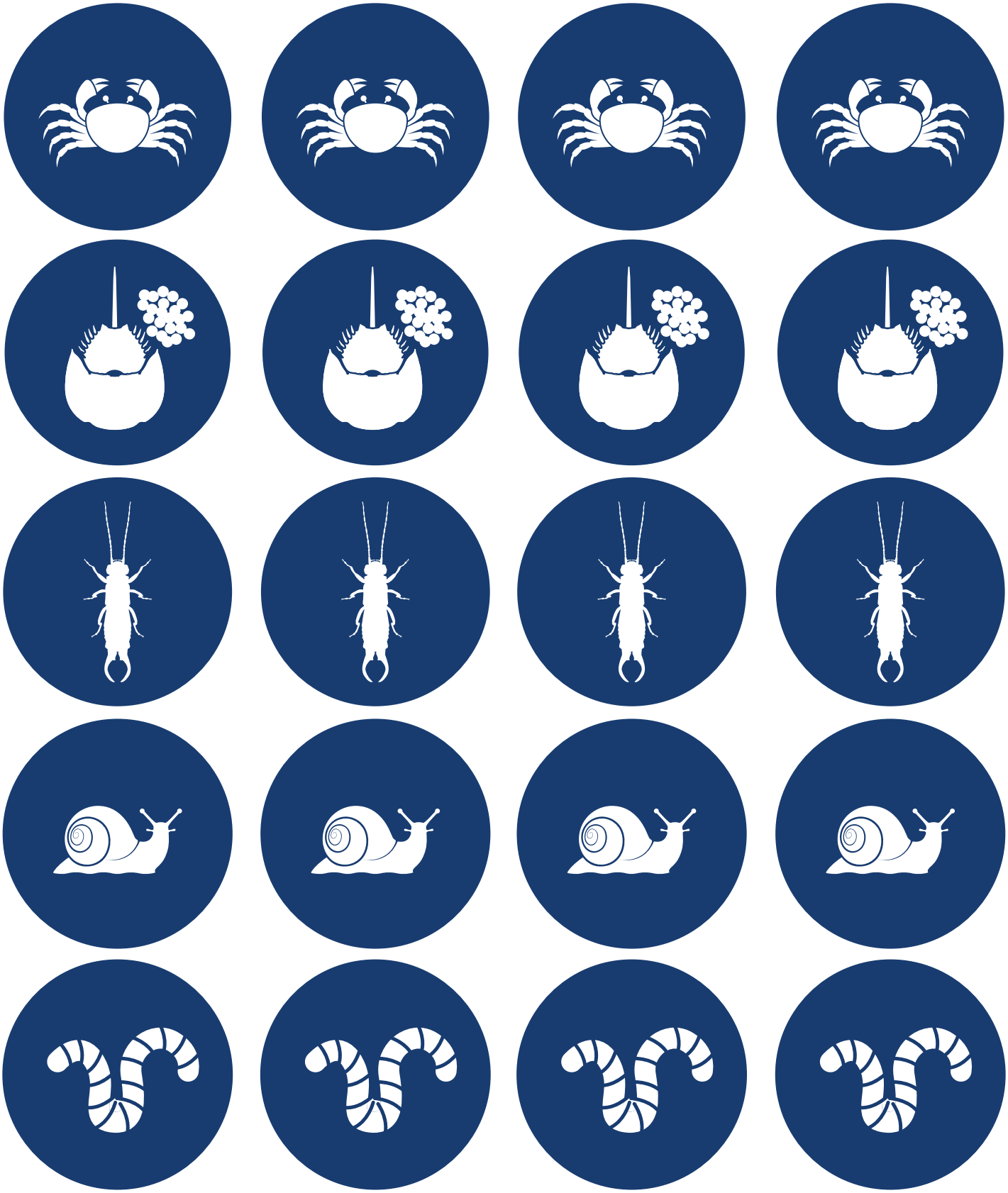
TYPE OF FOOD	NUMBER TO ADD TO SANDY BEACH
Crabs	0
Horseshoe crab eggs	0
Insects	0
Snails	0
Worms	0
Clams & Oysters	0
Brine flies	10
Brine shrimp	10

Super Food for Shorebirds: Graphing Activity

Find the type of shorebird food assigned by your teacher (or select one!). Make a column graph that shows how that food type varies between the habitats. Be sure to label your axes!

Type of Food	Habitat				
	Salt Marsh	Mud Flats	Grass-land	Sandy Beach	Salt Lake
Crabs	10	3	0	3	0
Horseshoe crab eggs	1	5	0	10	0
Insects	8	0	10	0	0
Snails	5	7	0	2	0
Worms	1	8	4	4	0
Clams & Oysters	3	8	0	2	0
Brine flies	3	0	0	0	10
Brine shrimp	5	0	0	0	10

Large Food Icons



Large Food Icons

Small Food Icons