

Name: _____

Bayous

By Olivia Mendoza

In the Gulf of Mexico, there is a special kind of land. A bayou (BYE-yoo) is a kind of wetland. *Bayou* comes from a Native American word, *bayuk*. It means *small stream*. Bayous often form in slow-moving creeks or on the sides of rivers or lakes.



matter what kind of water it is



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

Louisiana and Arkansas. Bayou Bartholomew is about 364 miles (586 kilometers) long. Before trains, Bayou Bartholomew was very important for getting around.

Bayous are mostly found where land is flat. Flat land helps water stay in one place. They're often very shallow too. Bayous can have fresh water, salt water, or brackish water. Brackish water is water that's only a bit salty. No

cypress trees grow tall. Duckweed and algae spot the water. Turtles float on logs. Frogs croak loudly. Water birds like ducks, herons, and pelicans wade around. Tasty crawfish and catfish hide in the muck. Watch out for snakes and bobcats!

Sadly, bayous are in danger. Since the 1930s, Louisiana alone has lost more than 2,000 square miles (almost 5,200 square

Name: _____

kilometers) of wetland. That's almost the size of Delaware! Lots of it was bayous. Some of the wetland was filled in so we could build on it. Most of it is being swallowed by the ocean. In the Mississippi River Delta, a football field of wetland is lost every 1-2 hours.

Many bayous that are still here



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

yet! People now know how

before it's too late.



Name: _____

Bayous

By Olivia Mendoza



1. List three threats to bayous mentioned in the article.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2. Personification is the use of humanlike descriptions to talk about or describe nonhuman things.

Which quote from the article uses personification?



Preview
Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.

a. Bayous can have fresh water, salt water, or brackish water.

b. No matter what kind of water it is, it's often murky.

c. They're often very shallow too.

d. Watch out for snakes and bobcats!

4. How would Bayou Bartholomew have helped people get around before trains?

5. What was the author's purpose for writing this article?

a. to convince readers bayous are in danger

b. to explain why bayous are the most interesting wetland

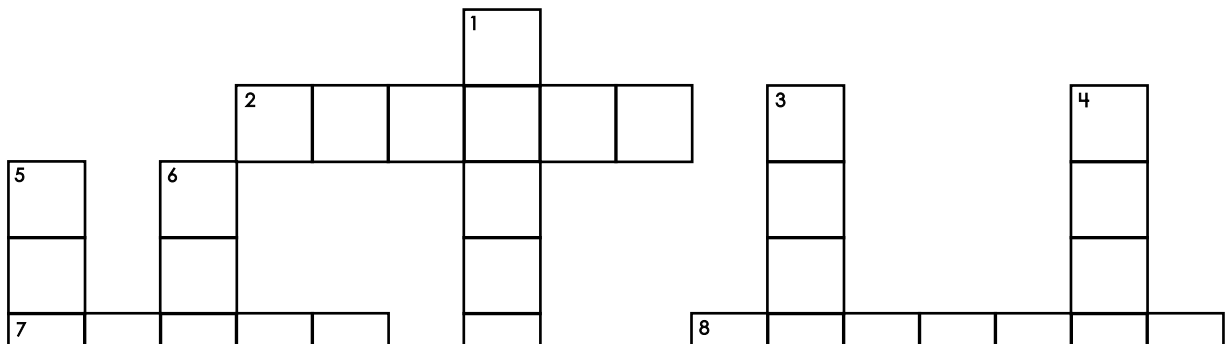
c. to explain why readers should try to visit a bayou

d. to share information about bayous

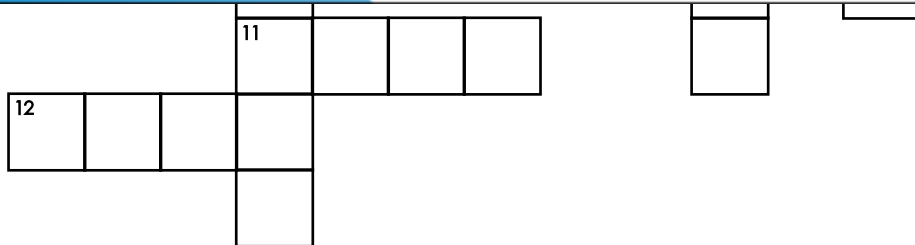
Name: _____

Bayous

Complete the crossword puzzle using words from the article.



Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.



Down:

- 1. waste or trash that hurts the environment
- 3. needed for growth, but can be harmful in too-large amounts
- 4. water that's only a bit salty
- 5. synonym for *hurt*; *harm*
- 6. name of the biggest bayou
- 10. kind of moss-like water plant

Across:

- 2. land water that flows into rivers, lakes, etc.
- 7. antonym for *clear*
- 8. to keep safe
- 9. strong storms ranked as Category 1–5
- 11. slimy, watery dirt or filth
- 12. to move through something that makes moving harder, such as water

Name: _____

Bayous



In the article, "Bayous," you read about a kind of wetland famously found in the Gulf of Mexico.

Pretend your class is writing letters to convince people in power to protect bayous. Use facts and information from the article to tell why you think bayous should be protected. Don't forget to use a greeting and closing in your letter.



Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

ANSWER KEY

Bayous

By Olivia Mendoza



1. List three threats to bayous mentioned in the article.

1. oil spills
2. pollution
3. too many nutrients from farm runoff

5. What was the author's purpose for writing this article?

- a. to convince readers bayous are in danger
- b. to explain why bayous are the most interesting wetland
- c. to explain why readers should try to visit a bayou

d. to share information about bayous

SOLUTION

Bayous

Preview

Please log in to download
the printable version of this worksheet.



W

Down:

1. waste or trash that hurts the environment
3. needed for growth, but can be harmful in too-large amounts
4. water that's only a bit salty
5. synonym for *hurt*; *harm*
6. name of the biggest bayou
10. kind of moss-like water plant

Across:

2. land water that flows into rivers, lakes, etc.
7. antonym for *clear*
8. to keep safe
9. strong storms ranked as Category 1–5
11. slimy, watery dirt or filth
12. to move through something that makes moving harder, such as water