



Moira Abbott, *Mangroves*, c. 1980.

Inspiration Artists: Moira Abbott, Margaret Barwick, Teresa Grimes, Olly & Suzi, Chris Mann, Shakir Husein

Age Range: Primary

Subject Area: Environmental Science

MANGROVES



**NATIONAL
GALLERY** | CAYMAN
ISLANDS

DART



In This Packet

In this lesson, students will learn about mangroves and why they are environmentally significant.

Local artists' depictions of mangroves are included. Students will also find fun activities and quizzes throughout the packet with an art activity at the end.

*Parental guidance recommended for final art activity.



Margaret Barwick, *Mangrove Swamp*, 1977.

What are mangroves?

Mangroves are short, tropical trees that grow along the coast in salty water.

Mangroves' roots grow close together, often overlapping each other. You can usually see the roots above the water level, growing upward into a dense thicket of leaves at the top of the tree.

Mangroves can be found all over the world in tropical and sub-tropical regions; they do not like cold water! There are many types of mangroves, but here in Cayman there are four types: red, black, white and buttonwood.

Mangroves are very important, and you'll learn why on the next page.



Source, and to read more on mangroves: <http://doe.ky/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Wetlands-Leaflet-Feb-2016.pdf>
<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/mangroves.html>

Why are mangroves important?

Mangroves are important for many reasons.

They help to slow climate change: Mangroves transform the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) into oxygen! They absorb CO₂ as they grow, locking it in and turning it into the oxygen that we breathe.

They act as a nursery for young species: Many different creatures can be found living in the mangroves. Thanks to those roots that grow so close together in shallow water, mangroves are a great place for young marine creatures to stay safe from larger predators as they grow. Many birds also use mangroves to nest and raise their young, including Cayman Parrots and White-Crowned Pigeons.

They slow down water currents: Mangroves create something like a natural wall that slows down water currents as waves approach the shore; this helps to keep the water crystal clear and protect the land from dangerous storm waves.



Mangrove Animals

You learned that mangroves are a place where many animals can be found. Which animals? Well, here are some of them!



West Indian Whistling Duck



Nudibranch



Snowy Egret



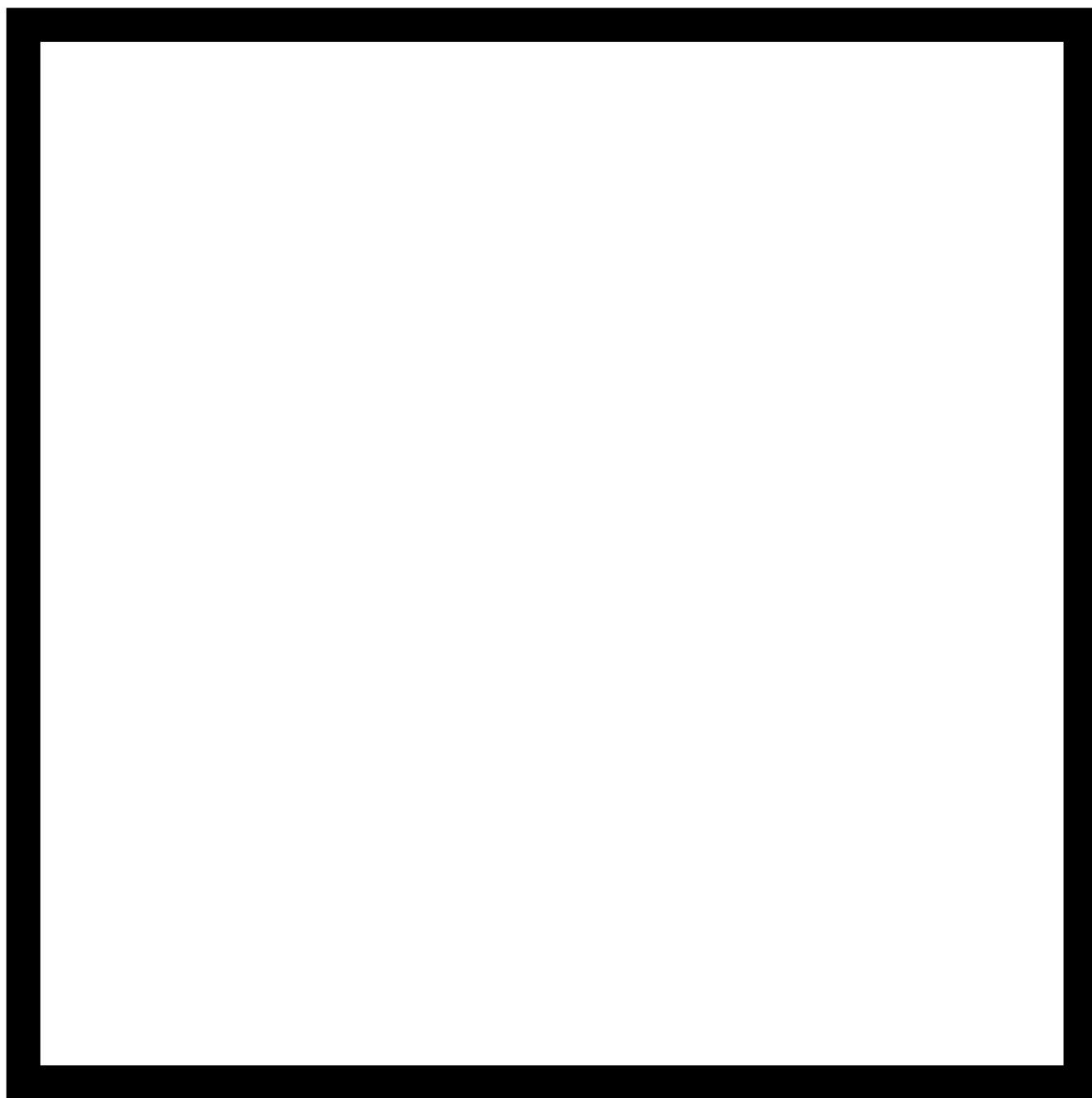
Starfish



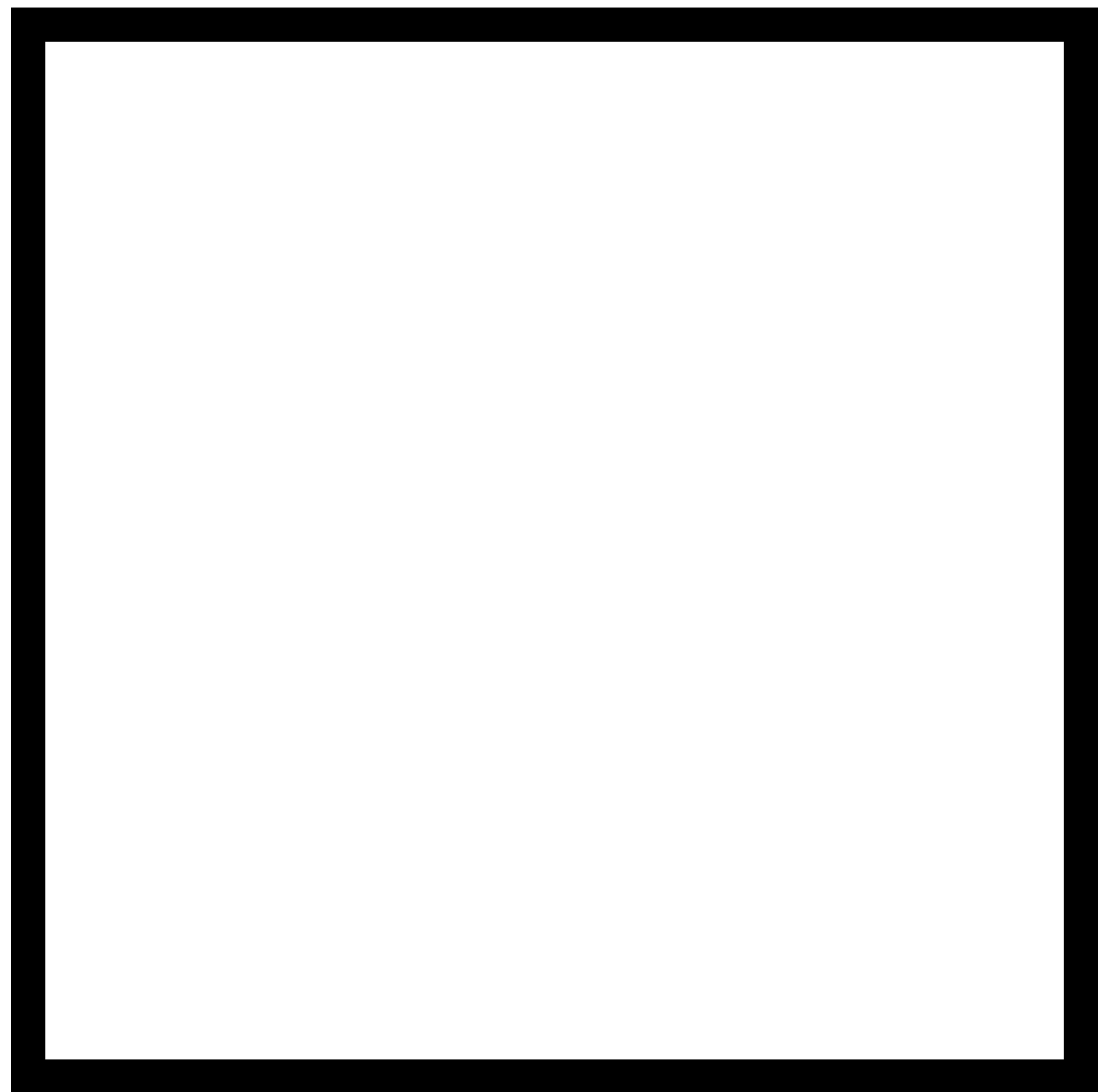
Jellyfish

Mangrove Animals

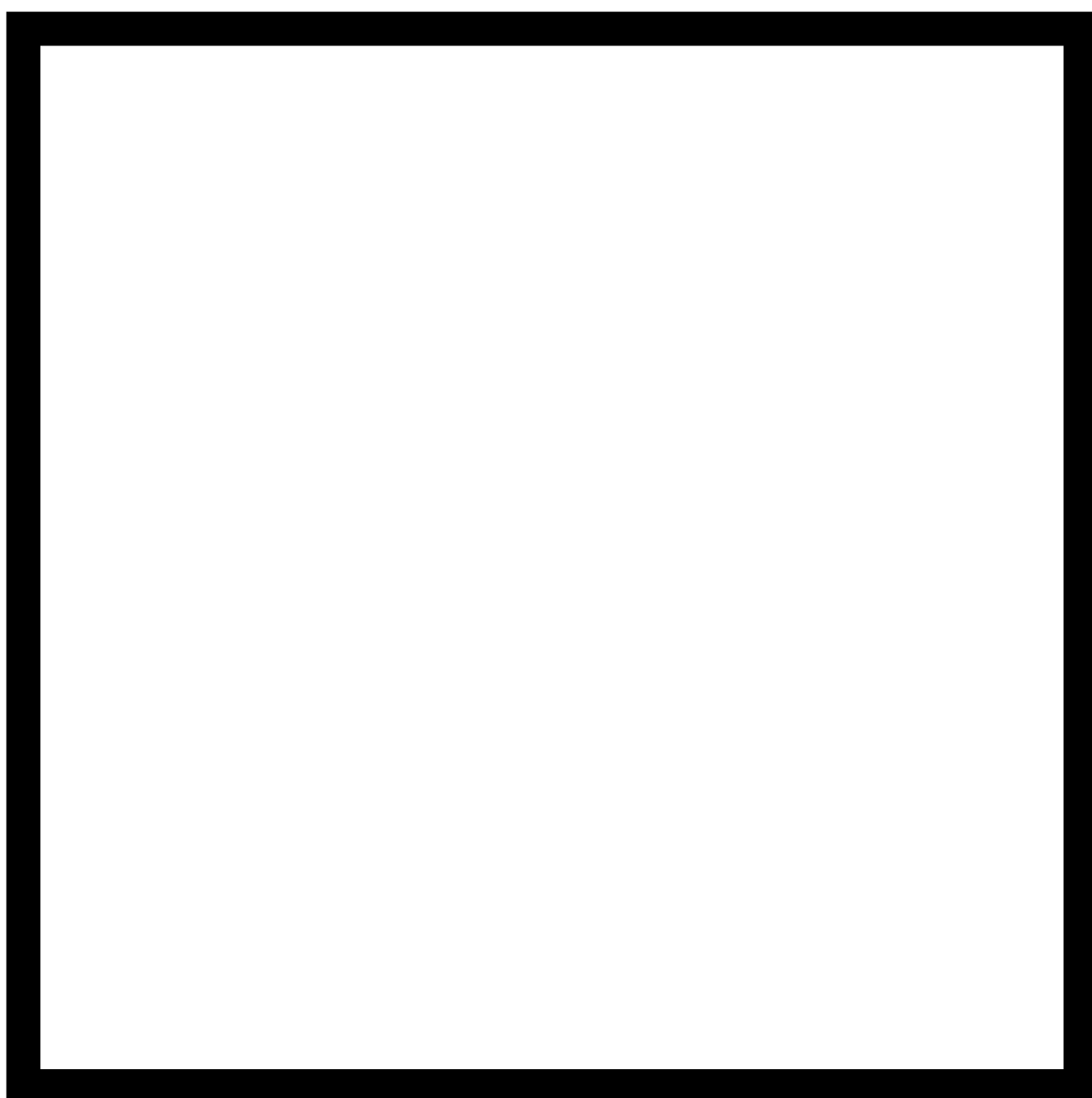
What animals could you find in the mangroves? Can you draw some of them?



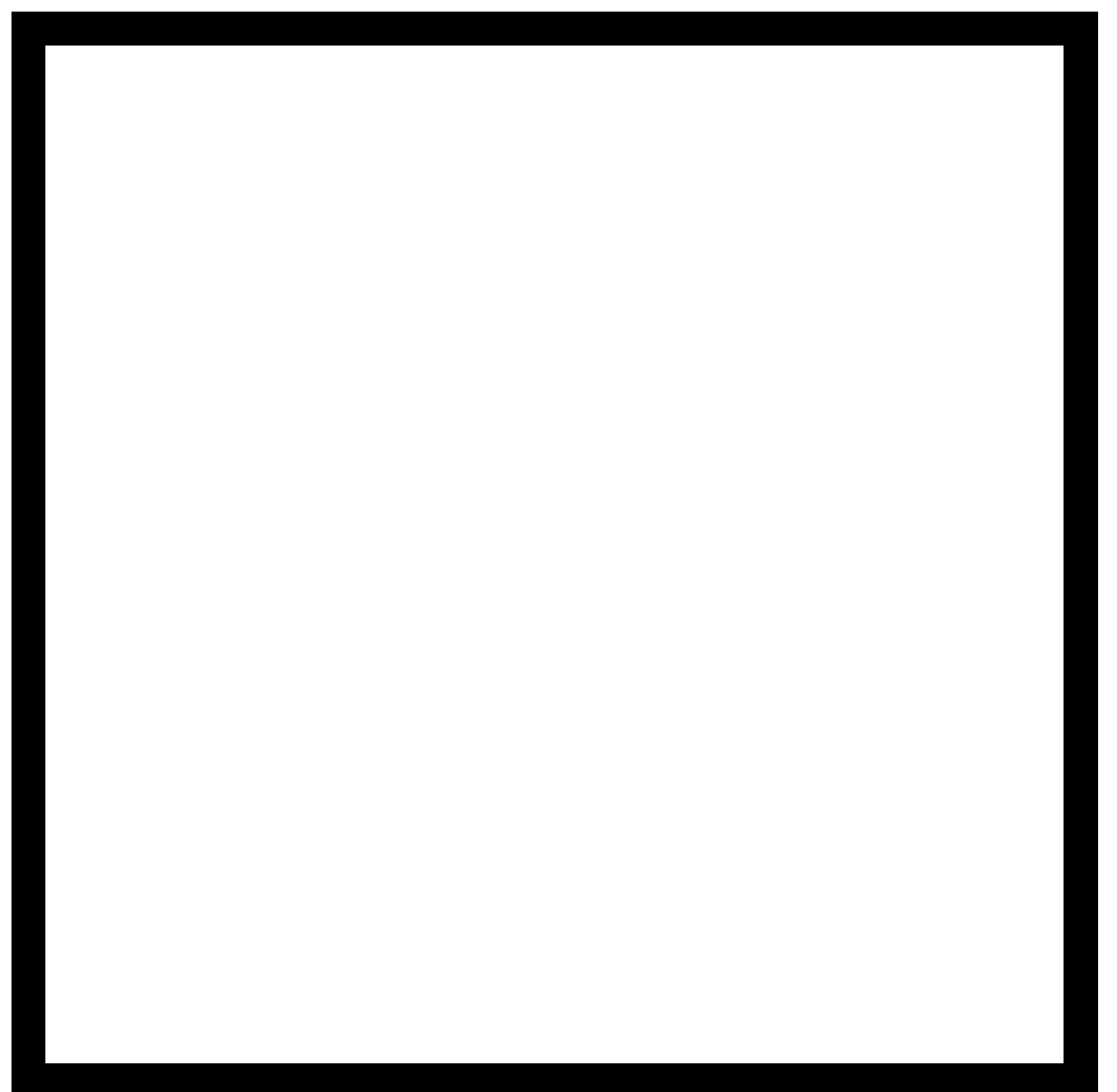
Fish



Crab



Bird



Slug

Mangroves Pop Quiz!

Time to test your knowledge. Fill in the blanks on these sentences.

1. The harmful greenhouse gas that mangroves absorb and turn into oxygen is called _____.

2. There are four types of mangroves in Cayman. They are red, _____, white and buttonwood.

3. Mangroves help to slow down water _____.

4. Mangroves prefer _____ water over _____ water.

Answers:
1. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂)
2. Black
3. Currents
4. Warm; Cold

Mangroves in Local Art

You have already seen paintings of mangroves by local artists Moira Abbott and Margaret Barwick on the first two pages of this packet. Here are more mangrove paintings created by artists in Cayman.



Teresa Grimes, *East of Palmetto Point (Barkers Plein Air Series, c. 2012.*



Olly & Suzi, *Mangroves, c. 1990.*

Mangroves in Local Art

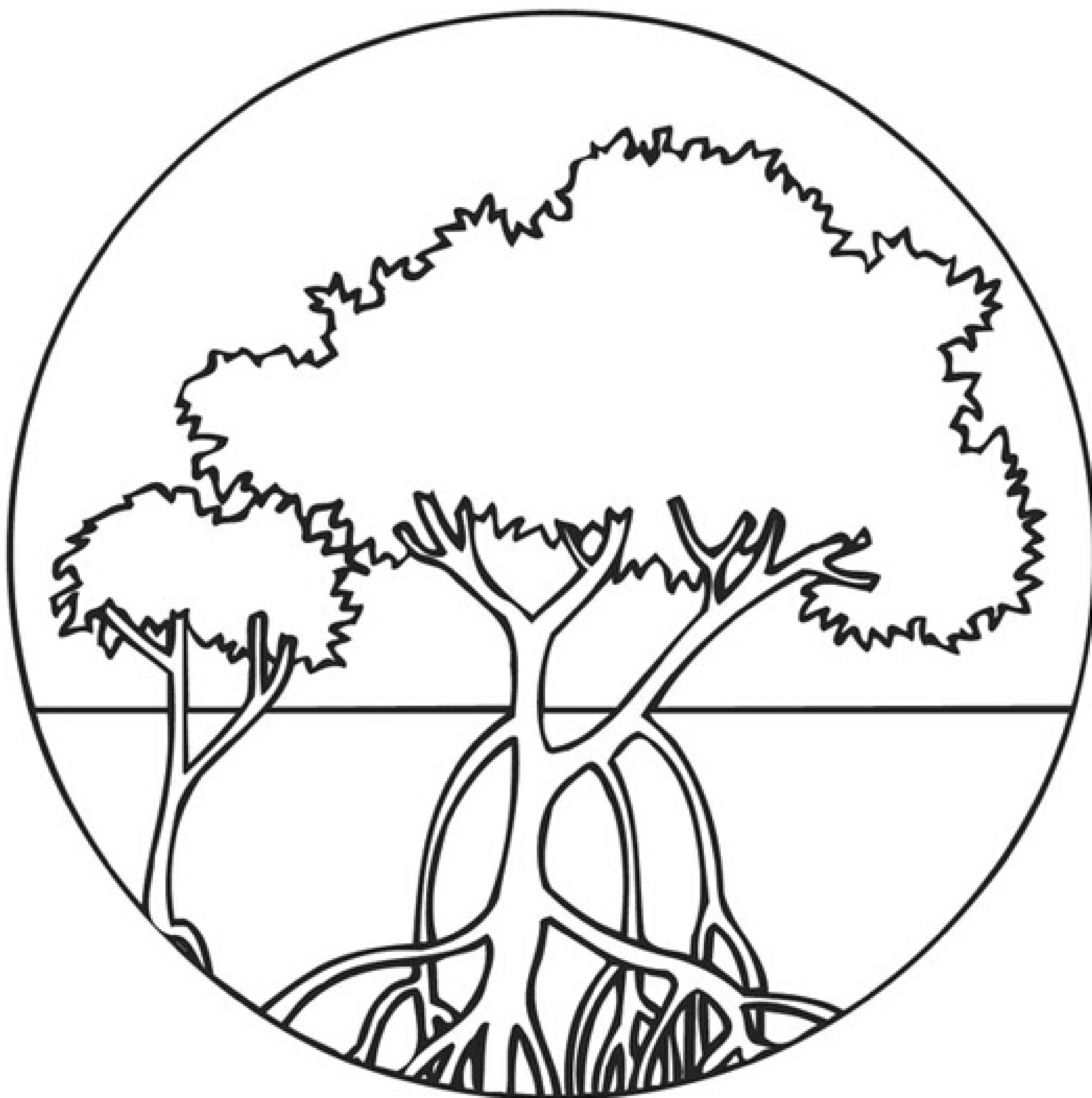


Chris Mann, *Mangrove III*, 2005.



Shakir Husein, *Untitled Figure on Dock*, 1984.

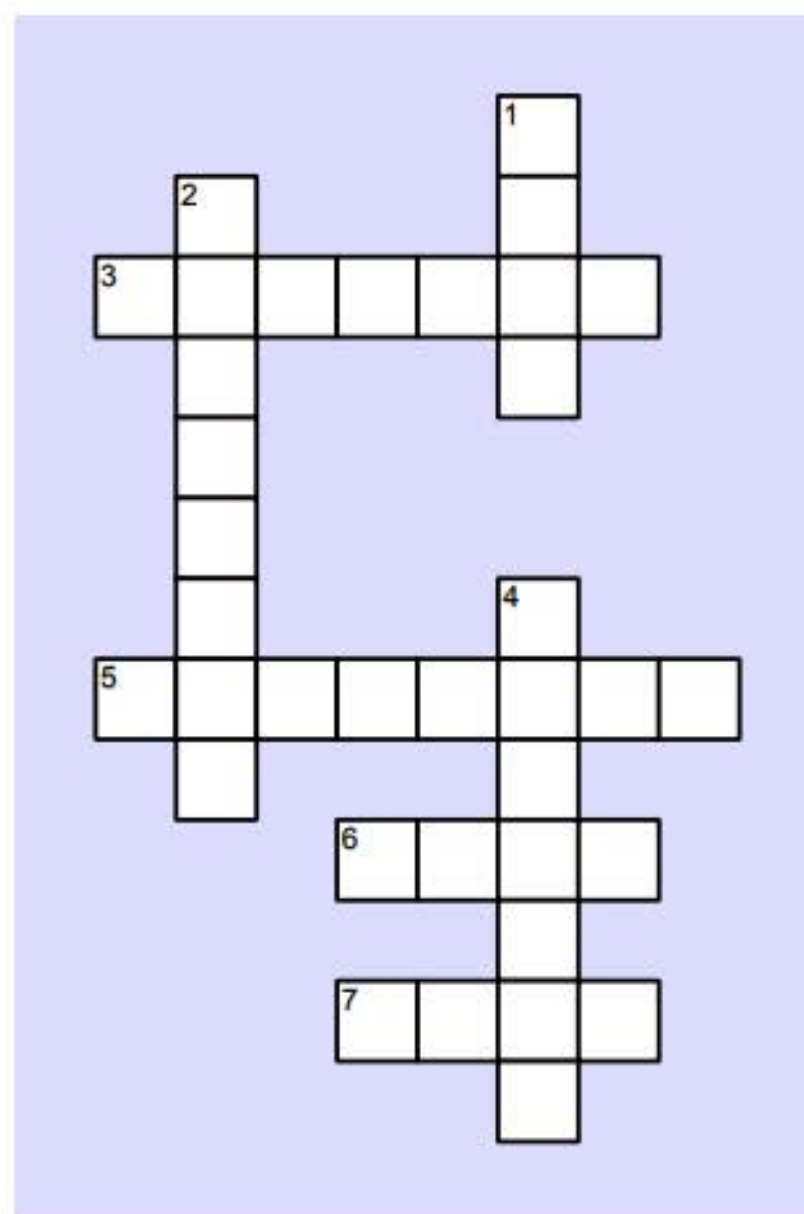
Colour It In!



Mangroves Crossword Puzzle

Complete the crossword puzzle with words you have seen in this lesson. Check your answers on the next page.

Mangroves Crossword



across:

3: A painting, sculpture, photograph, etc., that is created to be beautiful or to express an important idea or feeling.

5: Coastal wetland found in tropical and subtropical regions.

6: An animal that lives in water, is covered with scales, and breathes by taking water in.

7: A sea creature with ten legs and two large claws used for holding things. It walks sideways.

down:

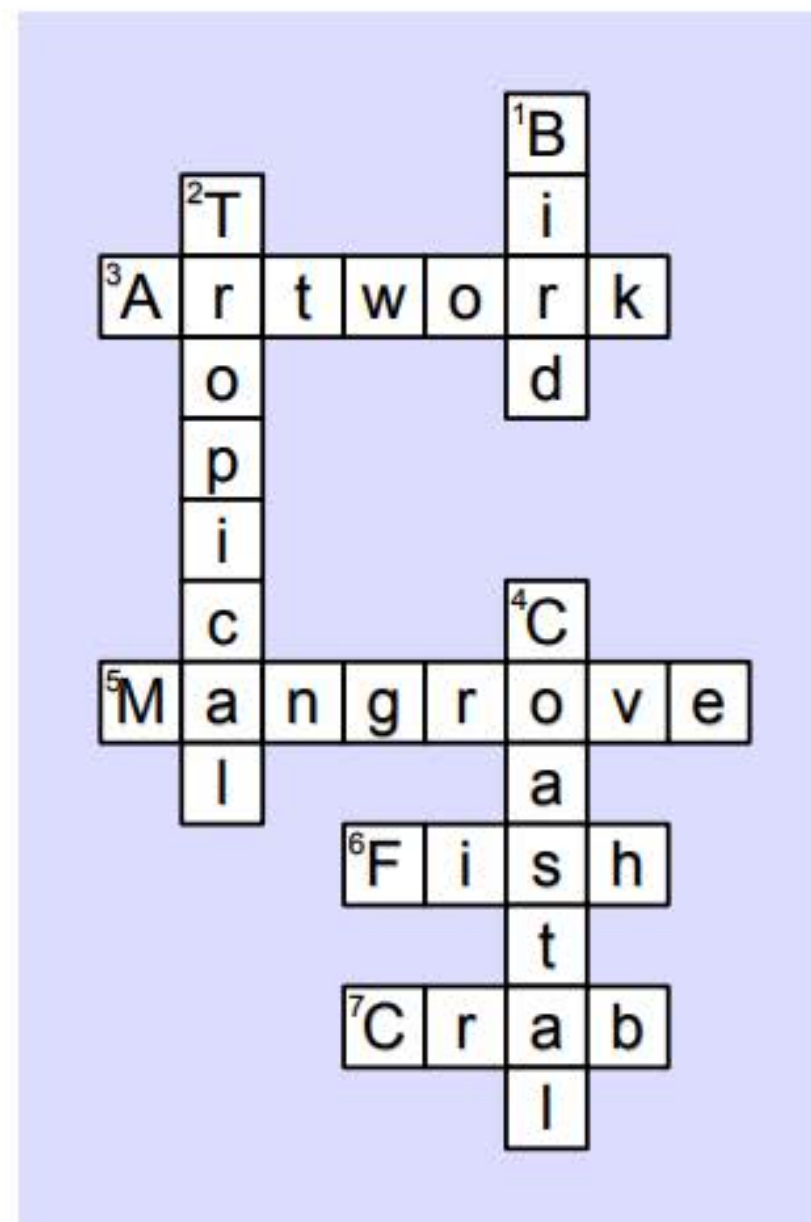
1: An animal that has wings and is covered with feathers.

2: Of, relating to, occurring in, or used in the tropics.

4: The land along or near a sea or ocean.

Mangroves Crossword Puzzle - Answers

Mangroves Crossword



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Art Activity:

Make your own mangroves

Materials:

- Paper
- Cotton swabs
- Rubber band or string
- Paint - No paint? No problem! Find a recipe for homemade paint using common kitchen supplies here: <https://www.smartschoolhouse.com/diy-crafts/make-homemade-paint>
- Pencil
- Coloured pencils, markers or crayons

Step 1: Gather together about eight cotton swabs and tie them together securely using a rubber band or piece of string. Set aside.

Step 2: On your paper, paint the roots and branches of a mangrove tree or a group of mangroves. If you want, you can sketch an outline first. Take a look at our local artists' artworks to remember the correct shape.

Step 3: Once you have your roots and branches, dip your bundled cotton swabs into green paint (green is the usual colour of mangrove leaves, but you can use any colour if you want to get creative).

Step 4: Press your cotton swabs down onto the paper at the top of tree to create bunches of leaves. Continue this process, making sure the leaves look full and dense, just like real mangroves!

Step 5: Let your paint dry, then use your pencil, crayons or markers to draw in animals that you might see in the mangroves. Go back to pages 5 and 6 if you need a reminder of what animals you could include!

