



WHO LIVES IN MANGROVES?

Mangrove trees and forests are home to an abundance of biodiversity, from ferns to fish, fungi to frogs. Due to the unique conditions of this ecosystem, any plant or animal that lives in mangroves must have special powers (also known as *adaptations*) to survive and thrive.

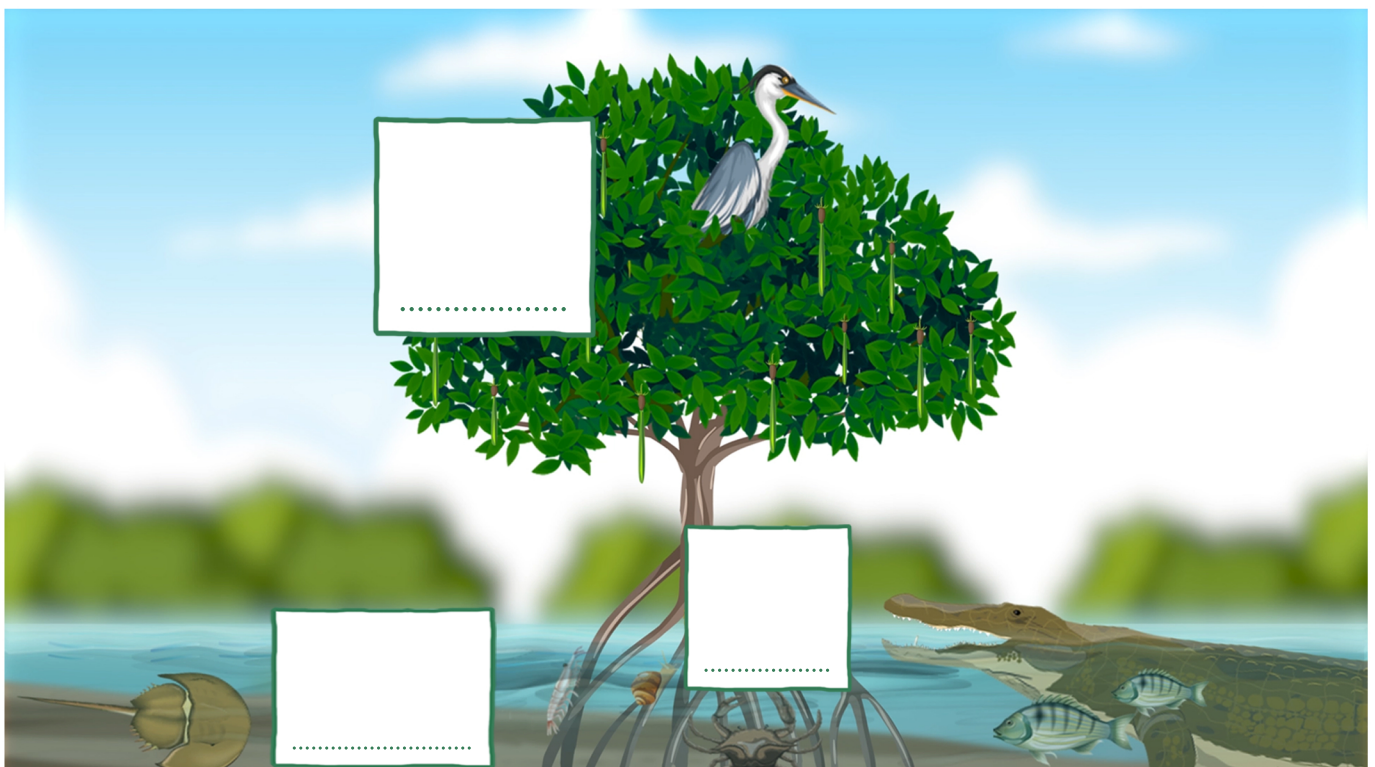


ACTIVITY 1

Take a look at the mangrove forest scene below. How many animals can you recognise?

Apart from these animals, do you know of other birds, mammals, insects, reptiles, or amphibians that can be found in different parts of a mangrove forest?

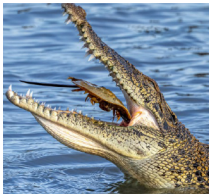
Draw and label the other animals in the blank spaces. You can even label the names of the existing animals in the drawing.





ACTIVITY 2

Once you learn the name of an animal, you can find out more about it by conducting research and reading up about it. Fill in the profiles of 3 animals that live in mangroves with a photo or drawing, characteristics, and fun facts. These could be animals that you have seen or would like to see.

<p>Name: Saltwater crocodile Scientific name: <i>Crocodylus porosus</i></p> 	<p>Name: Scientific name:</p>	<p>Name: Scientific name:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One of the largest known crocodile species in the world that can grow larger than 5 metres long!• Also known by another name: Estuarine crocodile• Feeds on _____.• Can be found basking in the sun because _____.• Globally threatened by _____.		



Dive Deeper: Visit a mangrove park or reserve to observe wildlife in their natural environment. Make observations about what you see (remember to stay on trails and keep your distance). Did you see the 3 animals you profiled above? Did you find any animals in unexpected places? Do some animals inhabit more than one zone of a mangrove forest? How and why do they do so?

Remember that when you enter a nature park or reserve, you are a guest in the home of wildlife. So, don't forget to practise trail etiquette and be good visitors!