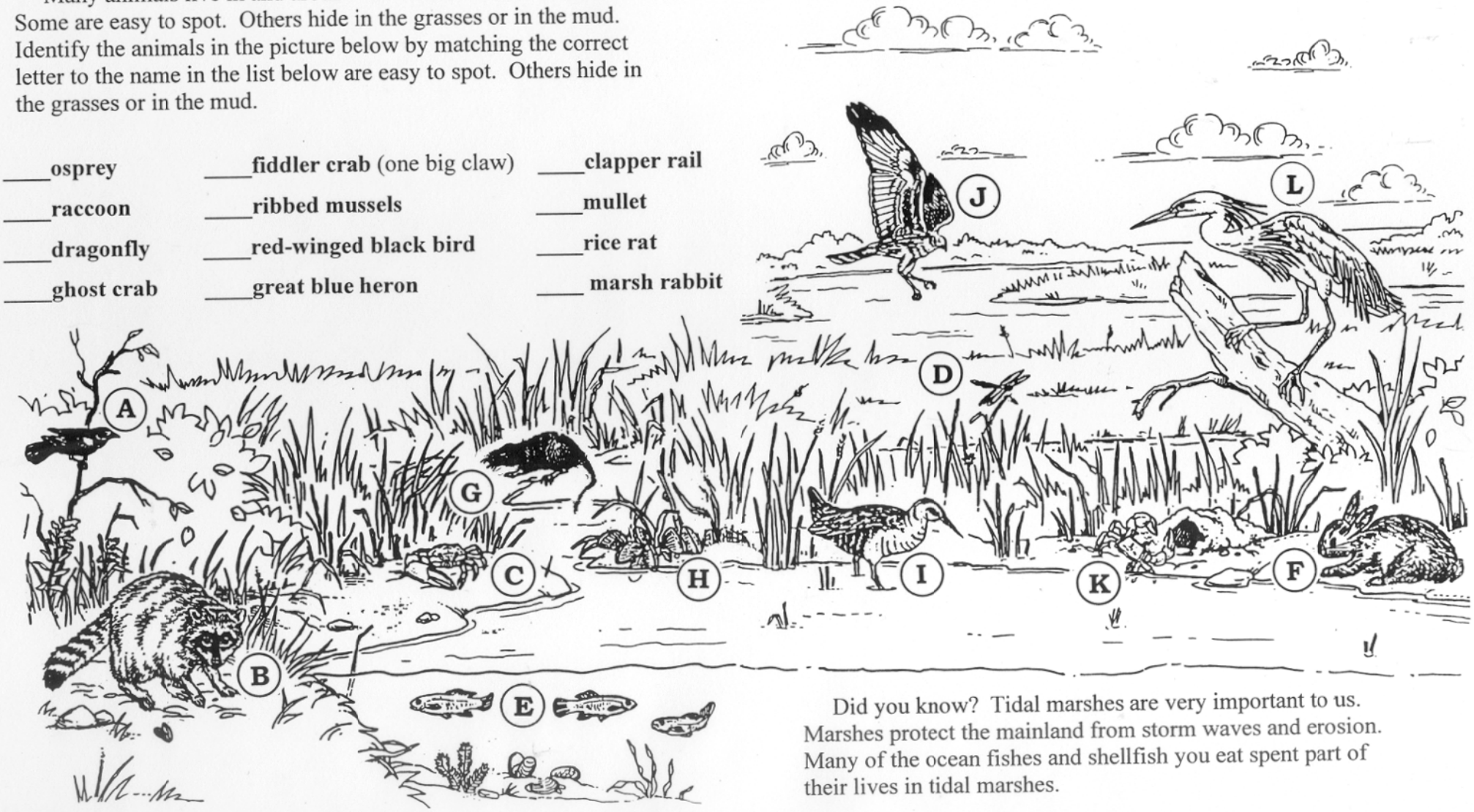
# Marshy Shores - Who Lives Here?

Tidal marshes, like those found on Rattlesnake Island, are grassy areas that are flooded at high tide. Here spartina grass, sea oxeye daisy, saltwort, and other salt-tolerant plants trap mud, silt, and decaying plant matter. This mixture called detritus becomes food for fish, crabs, shellfish, and small mammals as well as providing shelter and protection.

Many animals live in and around the waters of tidal marshes. Some are easy to spot. Others hide in the grasses or in the mud. Identify the animals in the picture below by matching the correct letter to the name in the list below are easy to spot. Others hide in the grasses or in the mud.

____**osprey**
____**raccoon**
____**dragonfly**
____**ghost crab**
____**fiddler crab** (one big claw)
____**ribbed mussels**
____**red-winged black bird**
____**great blue heron**
____**clapper rail**
____**mullet**
____**rice rat**
____ **marsh rabbit**




Which ones did you see during your visit? Did you see any other animals in or near the marsh?

Did you know? Tidal marshes are very important to us. Marshes protect the mainland from storm waves and erosion. Many of the ocean fishes and shellfish you eat spent part of their lives in tidal marshes.