



## Natural Resources Scavenger Hunt

### for use with Atchafalaya National Heritage Area (ANHA) Curriculum Volume II Natural Resources / Habitat and Environment

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Atchafalaya National Heritage Area is a bountiful land with many natural resources. The Basin provides habitat for a diverse array of wildlife, including the American bald eagle and Louisiana black bear. The area is home to more than 85 species of fish, crawfish, and other crustaceans; many migratory waterfowl; forest-dwelling mammals; and other commercially important furbearers. Well over 270 species of birds—some of them endangered—have been recorded in the Basin and its surrounding natural areas. Native Americans, early settlers, railroaders, road builders, loggers, and oil and gas explorers have all utilized the richness the region. Cypress and other hardwood forests provided building material and fuel for fireplaces. Water resources provided transport. The fertile soils made good cropland. A bounty for all!

Download the second booklet about the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area at <http://www.atchafalaya.org/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Curr2NatRes.pdf>. Use the Natural Resources booklet to complete the scavenger hunt below.

#### **The Bounty of the Atchafalaya Basin**

Fill in the blanks. (Pgs 6-11, 37, 39)

The Atchafalaya Basin is home to more than \_\_\_\_\_ species of fish, crawfish, and other crustaceans. Pg 6

The Atchafalaya River is the only remaining distributary above the mouth of the Mississippi River. A distributary is a waterway which \_\_\_\_\_ water from a river. Pg 6

The primary purpose of the Atchafalaya Basin is navigation and \_\_\_\_\_. Pg 8

The loss of wetlands in floodplains means the loss of buffers from \_\_\_\_\_ and storm surges. Pg 9

The \_\_\_\_\_ is the only dam currently on the Atchafalaya River.  
Pg 9

Louisiana contains \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the nation's coastal wetlands and marshes. Pg 9

The wetlands provide an important natural buffer for \_\_\_\_\_ from heavy rains and hurricanes, as they retain and slow rapidly moving floodwaters. Pg 9

Every year 25-35 square miles of wetlands are lost in the US with Louisiana bearing \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the overall loss. Pg 9

The Mississippi River runs \_\_\_\_\_ to the Atchafalaya River. Pg 9

The Atchafalaya River contains the largest remaining \_\_\_\_\_ and river swamp in America, and is the largest remaining segment of what was once a 24 million acre forest that covered portions of seven states. Pg 11

An \_\_\_\_\_ is an area where an organism finds the food, water, shelter, and space it needs to survive. Pg 37

The interrelationship between organisms classified as producers, consumers and decomposers forms a \_\_\_\_\_. Pg 37

The process of using the sun's energy to convert minerals in the soil to green leaves, carrots or strawberries is called \_\_\_\_\_. Pg 39

<b>Statement</b>	<b>TRUE</b>	<b>FALSE</b>
The American alligator is designated as the Louisiana state reptile. It was once endangered and is currently listed as "threatened due to similarity of appearance." Pg 13		
Invasive species do not effect wildlife populations because they don't compete for vegetation important to foraging and habitat. Pg 14		
The 14 parishes of the ANHA are home to 24 federal and state listed threatened or endangered species, or species of concern, and three state listed special status species. Pg 14		
The three endangered mammals in the Atchafalaya Basin area are Finback whale, West Indian manatee, and bottlenose dolphin. Pg 15		
Bald eagles live in the Atchafalaya Basin. Pg 16		

**Can you find the:**

Three major types of vegetation in the Atchafalaya Basin Region? Pg 12

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Five birds that are threatened, endangered, or species of concern? Pgs 16, 17

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Five fish, reptiles, amphibians, and/or invertebrates on the threatened, endangered or species of concern lists? Pgs 18, 19, 20

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Three threats to the natural resources found in the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area? Pg 20

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

<b>Important Science Concepts</b>
<b>Q&amp;A (Pgs 41, 49)</b>
How does a food web differ from a food chain? Pg 41
Why are heterotrophs called consumers? Pg 41
What role do wetlands play in the water cycle? Pg 49

**Project**

**Animals of the Atchafalaya Basin Bookmark**

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