

2022 Right Whale Festival: Kids Program Answer Key

Version 1 (10 and under) BLUE- 18 Questions

1. Amelia Island Kayak Excursions, <https://ameliaislandkayak.com/>

Question: Right whales can grow up to _____ feet long and weigh as much as _____ pounds!

Answer: 55 ft. 140,000 lbs.

Did you know? That's longer than four kayaks (12 ft) and as heavy as about 15 African elephants!

2. Amelia Island River Cruises & Charters, <https://www.ameliarivercruises.com>

Question: Right whales often rest and nurse their calves at the _____ of the water.

Answer: Surface

Did you know? Right whales have no dorsal fin and dark skin making them very hard to see at the surface of the water. It's important ALL vessels use caution when traveling in areas where right whales may be present.

3. Amelia Island Whale Ambassadors

Question: How many right whale babies (calves) were born last season?

Answer: 15 live calves

Did you know? Of the calves born in the 2021-2022 season, at least 9 passed by Amelia Island with their mothers.

4. Blue World Research Institute, <https://www.bwri.org>

Question: What are the two main threats to right whales?

Answer: Entanglement in fishing gear and vessel strikes

Did you know? Assisting a whale entangled in fishing gear and/or marine debris should only be attempted by authorized persons who are experienced, trained, knowledgeable, and have proper support and equipment.

5. Clearwater Marine Aquarium, <https://www.cmaquarium.org>

Question: How many right whales are estimated to be alive?

Answer: Less than 350

Did you know? North Atlantic right whales are one of the most endangered large whale species in the world. Aerial surveys help scientists determine the status of the population by monitoring calf production, detecting dead whales, providing photos for identification, and providing sighting support for biopsy efforts.

6. Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch,

<https://www.fau.edu/hboi/research/marine-ecosystem-conservation/stranding/>

Question: What other marine mammal is often seen swimming with right whales in the coastal waters off Florida and Georgia?

Answer: Bottlenose Dolphin

Did you know? It's illegal to harass, hunt, capture, or kill any marine mammal in U.S. waters under the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972.

7. Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Alert Community Trailer

Question: What do you do if there is an injured right whale on the beach?

Answer: Call 1-877 WHALE HELP

Did you know? The Southeast U.S. Marine Mammal Stranding Network consists of trained professionals that will respond to an entangled, injured, or dead whale.

8. Florida Springs Council, <https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org>

Question: When in their calving grounds, what water temperature do right whales prefer?

Answer: ~55-59 degrees Fahrenheit

Studies have shown right whales generally like water temperatures around 57°F (Brrrr!)

Did you know? Right whales swim over 1000 miles from Canada and New England to the warm coastal waters of the southeast U.S. to give birth to their young. While right whales and manatees are both marine mammals, manatees typically cannot tolerate water temps below 68°F. Florida springs provide warm water for manatees to use during the colder months to help them survive through winter.

9. Friends of Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve (GTM)- <http://www.gtmnerr.org>

Question: What is an estuary?

Answer: A partially enclosed body of water with one or more river or stream flowing into it. (mixing of saltwater and fresh water)

Did you know? The right whale is a coastal whale, swimming close by many large East Coast cities and estuaries. Our actions on land can profoundly affect life downstream, into the estuaries, as well as the ocean.

10. International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), <https://www.ifaw.org>

Question: What animal represents the greatest threat to North Atlantic right whales?

Verbally give options: a) *great white sharks* b) *killer whales* c) *humans* d) *giant squid*

Answer: c) Humans.

Did you know? Right whales were hunted almost to extinction by the early 1890s; they are threatened by vessel strikes, entanglement in fishing gear, ocean noise, and climate change, which is why the species has never been able to recover. North Atlantic right whales are one of the most endangered large whale species on the planet.

11. Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens, <https://www.jacksonvillezoo.org>

Question: What do right whales have on their body to protect them from the cold water that they swim in _____?

Answer: Blubber

Did you know? Right whales and bowhead whales have a thicker blubber layer than any other whale; it can measure more than a foot!

12. NOAA, <https://www.noaa.gov>

Question: Typically, North Atlantic right whales are found off the coast of northeast Florida and Georgia during which season?

Answer: Winter

Did you know? In the winter, right whales are often seen from the shore of Amelia Island. Most of the right whales seen off the coast of northeast Florida are there to give birth and nurse their young.

13. Ocean Sole Africa Inc., <https://oceansole.com>

Question: What can you do to help right whales?

Answer: Keep the ocean clean, reduce plastic, spread the word (kids under 10)

Did you know? Always be sure to secure your belongings when at the beach (i.e., flip flops, beach balls, frisbees). Plastic marine litter can kill marine animals such as whales, dolphins, and turtles. You can do your part to help protect marine life by avoiding single use plastics, disposing of your trash appropriately, and recycling! Also, tell your friends and family about right whales and why they need our help.

14. Okefenokee Swamp Park & Adventures, <https://okeswamp.org>

Question: List a few ways you can help “Prepare the Ocean Nursery”?

Answer: Remind others right whales are on their way, clean waterways and beaches

Did you know? Pollution and trash in rivers affects right whales and other marine life. It is important to keep our rivers and smaller waterways clean because these feed into large bodies of water, including the ocean.

15. Omni Amelia Island Resort Nature Center, <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/amelia-island>

Question: Do right whales have teeth?

Answer: No, they have baleen.

Did you know? Right whales are skim-feeders! The bristly baleen acts like a giant strainer and filters food (the tiny copepods) from the water as they swim along the surface with their mouth open. Therefore, it's important to keep our ocean clean by disposing of your plastic trash properly and recycling so right whales don't swallow it.

16. Talbot Island State Parks, <https://www.floridastateparks.org>

Question: In the winter, North Atlantic right whales migrate to the coastal waters of northeast Florida and Georgia to give birth because the waters there are calm and _____.

Answer: Warm

Did you know? Adult right whales have a thick layer of blubber (similar to fat) to keep them warm in cold water, but calves are born with only a small amount of blubber.

17. University of Florida- Aquatic Animal Health Program, <https://aquatic.vetmed.ufl.edu/>

Question: The skeleton of a right whale flipper is very similar to human _____ and _____ bones.

Answer: Arm and Hand

Did you know? Whales have vestigial pelvic bones which have lost their functional role and are buried deep in the muscle of the whale.

18. Wild Amelia: a Keep Nassau Beautiful Program, <http://www.wildamelia.org>

Question: _____ are small, white crustaceans that live on the head of right whales.

Answer: Whale Lice or Cyamids

Did you know? The white patterns on a right whale's head are called callosities and are used by scientists to identify individuals.

Version 2 (11 and over) ORANGE – 19 Questions

1. Amelia Surf. Co., <https://www.ameliasurfco.com>

Question: Even though they don't have a motor, approaching a right whale while in a _____ or on a _____ is illegal and unsafe.

Answer: Kayak; Surfboard/Paddleboard

Did you know? The law states that it is illegal to be within 500 yards (or 1,500 feet) of a North Atlantic right whale. The best place to watch right whales is from the beach or a pier. Disturbance of their natural behavior affects their ability to feed, nurse, rest, and ultimately, to survive.

2. Amelia Island Whale Ambassadors

Question: How many right whale babies (calves) were born last season?

Answer: 15 live calves

Did you know? Of the calves born in the 2021-2022 season, at least 9 passed by Amelia Island with their mothers. Despite being entangled in rope, Snow Cone was one of the whales seen caring for her newborn calf; she is still entangled.

3. City of Jacksonville Parks and Recreation; <https://www.coj.net/departments/parks-and-recreation>

Question: What can you do to help right whales?

Answer: Keep the ocean clean, reduce plastic, spread the word, let your voice be heard, join the cause (volunteer), buy sustainable seafood, buy products made in the U.S., boat & whale watch responsibly. Details: <http://www.rightwhalefestival.com/help-whales.html> (11 yrs. and up)

Did you know? Always be sure to secure your belongings when at the beach (i.e., flip flops, beach balls, frisbees). Plastic marine litter can kill marine animals such as whales, dolphins, and

turtles. You can do your part to help protect marine life by avoiding single use plastics, disposing of your trash appropriately, and recycling! Also, tell your friends and family about right whales and why they need our help.

4. Clearwater Marine Aquarium, <https://www.cmaquarium.org>

Question: How many right whales are estimated to be alive?

Answer: Fewer than 350

Did you know? North Atlantic right whales are one of the most endangered large whale species in the world. Aerial surveys help scientists determine the status of the population by monitoring calf production, detecting dead whales, providing photos for identification, and providing sighting support for biopsy efforts. Aerial surveys are also important for monitoring the presence of right whales and alerting mariners, boaters, and partners to the whales' locations, as well as detecting and responding to injured and entangled whales.

5. Duval Audubon Society, <http://www.duvalaudubon.org>

Question: What is the most northern region that the North Atlantic Right Whale migrate to in search for food?

Answer: Canada

Did you know? Like many birds, right whales migrate over 1000 miles. They travel from their feeding grounds off Canada and New England to the warm coastal waters of South Carolina, Georgia, and northeastern Florida. Most of the right whales seen off the coast of northeast Florida are there to give birth and nurse their young.

6. Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC),

<https://myfwc.com/research/wildlife/right-whales/>

Question: _____ are small, white crustaceans that live on the head of right whales and help scientists identify individuals by making the black callosities look white and more visible in photographs.

Answer: Cyamids or whale lice

Did you know? Aerial surveys are conducted each winter in an effort to alert mariners of the presence of right whales, so they can take special precautions to avoid vessel collisions with the whales. During these aerial surveys, scientists are also able to collect photos of right whales to be used to identify individuals.

7. Friends of Talbot Islands State Parks, <https://www.talbotislands.com>

Question: When in their calving grounds, what water temperature do right whales prefer?

Answer: 55-59 degrees Fahrenheit

Did you know? Adult right whales have a thick layer of blubber (similar to fat) to keep them warm in cold water, but calves are born with only a small amount of blubber.

8. International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), <https://www.ifaw.org>

Question: What animal represents the greatest threat to North Atlantic right whales?

Verbally give options: a) great white sharks b) killer whales c) humans d) giant squid

Answer: c) Humans

Did you know? By the early 1890s, commercial whalers had hunted right whales in the Atlantic to the brink of extinction. A deadly combination of vessel strikes, entanglement in fishing gear, ocean noise, and climate change, all attributable to humans, have made it difficult for the species to recover and has led to North Atlantic right whales being one of the most endangered species of whale on the planet.

9. Jaxport, <https://www.jaxport.com>

Question: To reduce the threat of ship strikes, vessels that are 65 feet or longer must travel at what speed through the right whale calving area?

Answer: 10 knots

Did you know? JAXPORT is a member of the Early Warning System (EWS) network which alerts ships via text and email of nearby right whale sightings, so they can avoid collisions. While only vessels 65 ft. or longer

are required by law to slow to 10 knots, vessels of all sizes have the potential to fatally injure whales and should take this precaution.

10. Keep Nassau Beautiful, <https://www.keepnassaubeautiful.org>

Question: Right whales eat mostly which type of zooplankton?

Answer: Copepods

Did you know? Plastic trash that goes into the ocean can break up into smaller and smaller pieces. Right whales are skim feeders and can scoop up this plastic as they catch their zooplankton dinner. Keep our ocean clean by disposing of your plastic trash properly and recycling. Also, remember it's illegal to release ten or more balloons in a 24-hour period in the state of Florida, punishable by a \$250 fine. When you release balloons, they have potential to enter the marine environment where they can be deadly to marine life.

11. Marine Resources Council Right Whale Conservation Program, <https://www.mrcirl.org>

Question: How do you report a right whale sighting in Florida?

Answer: To report a general sighting, call MRC at 1-888-97-WHALE or 1-877-WHALE HELP. To immediately report an entangled, injured, or dead right whale, call 1-877-WHALE HELP.

Did you know? The Right Whale Volunteer Sighting Network has had as many as 800 members annually that report whales along Florida's east coast to help prevent collisions with ships.

12. Oceana, <https://oceana.org>

Question: _____ in the ocean makes it hard for whales to communicate.

Answer: Noise Pollution

Did you know? Sound travels great distances underwater and right whales make frequent calls over 20 miles or more to share information about food, look for a mate, stay in communication with their calves, and much more. The noise generated by one passing ship and other man-made noise can lessen or eliminate a right whale's ability to communicate with other whales in the area.

13. SeaWorld, <https://seaworld.com/orlando/>

Question: Right whales were the favorite target of whalers because they floated when dead, produced a lot of oil from their blubber, and had long & abundant baleen. They are also often found close to shore. This is why whalers called them the _____ whale to hunt!

Answer: Right

Did you know? Right whale baleen is 8-10 feet long and is made of keratin – the same as your fingernails! In the past, baleen was used to make hairbrushes, umbrellas, and many other things, which are now made from plastic and metal.

14. Sierra Club of Nassau County and Northeast Florida, <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/nassau>

Question: Right whales have black colored skin, and no _____ on their back.

Answer: dorsal fin

Did you know? These features make it difficult to see a right whale, so vessels of all sizes should use caution in areas where right whales might be present. Right whales have two blowholes; when they breathe out, their breath, combined with water droplets, makes a characteristic V-shape that rises up to 16 ft. above the surface of the water.

15. St. Marys Riverkeeper, <https://www.stmarysriverkeeper.org>

Question: List a few ways you can help "Prepare the Ocean Nursery"?

Answer: Remind others right whales are on their way, clean waterways and beaches

Did you know? Pollution and trash in rivers affects right whales and other marine life. It is important to keep our rivers and smaller waterways clean because these feed into large bodies of water, including the ocean.

16. Turtle Survival Alliance - North American Freshwater Turtle Research Group,
<https://turtlesurvival.org>

Question: How much copepods (zooplankton) does a right whale eat per day?

Answer: Right whales eat more than 2600 pounds per day.

Did you know? When these whales are in the southeast U.S. to give birth to and nurse their young, scientists believe that they do not eat until they return to their northern feeding grounds off New England and Canada.

17. United States Coast Guard, <https://www.uscg.mil>

Question: The USCG broadcasts right whale information during the winter on what Marine VHF radio channel?

Answer: 16 and 22A

Did you know? An entangled right whale was named “Kingfisher” in honor of the crew of the USCG cutter Kingfisher that helped rescue teams that tried to cut off the fishing ropes wrapped around him.

18. U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, <https://www.cgaux.org>

Question: Right whales often rest and nurse their calves at the _____ of the water.

Answer: Surface

Did you know? Right whales have no dorsal fin and dark skin making them very hard to see at the surface of the water. It’s important all vessels use caution when traveling in areas where right whales might be present.

19. United States Navy, <https://www.facebook.com/usnavystewardsofthesea>

Question: What is the name of the network that alerts mariners of the presence of right whales so they can use caution to avoid hitting or disturbing a right whale in the Southeast U.S.?

Answer: Early Warning System

Did you know? From November through April, two aerial survey teams fly over the waters of Florida and Georgia to locate right whales. Additionally, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy and a network of land-based volunteer observers are constantly on the lookout for the whales, so their location can be shared with mariners within half an hour of the sighting.