



Science activate: Sargassum



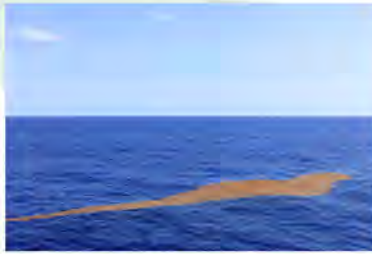
 **WHAT:** The scientific name is Sargassum but most people call it by the common name of seaweed. It is often confused with a plant but it is a floating algae that gets blown ashore from the ocean when the wind is strong.

 **WHY:** This floating algae provides habitat, food, shelter, and breeding grounds for a variety of animals such as fish, shrimp, baby sea turtles, marine birds, crabs, and more. Some animals, like the sargassum fish, camouflage so well in it that they can live their entire lives looking just like some more seaweed.

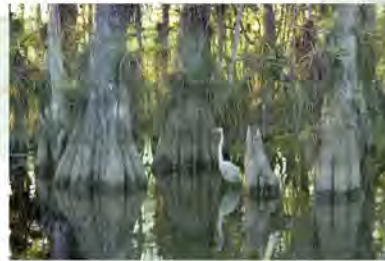
 **Have you seen me? Color the star in blue under the picture that represents where sargassum can be found.**



canal



open ocean



swamp



beach



 **Can you recall your thoughts the first time you saw this algae? What did it look, smell, and feel like when you picked it up? If you haven't, what do you think it would look, smell, or feel like? Write or draw your impressions below.**

CROSSWORD

Words to know about me: habitat, seaweed, camouflage, sargassum, algae

1 DOWN

My scientific name is



2 ACROSS

When someone sees me, they might call me by this name



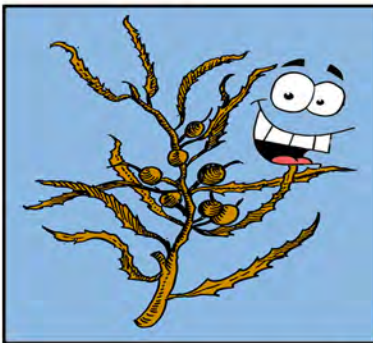
3 ACROSS

I provide this service to sargassum fish.



4 DOWN

I may look like a plant but I'm an _____



5 ACROSS

Baby turtles do this when taking shelter in me to disguise themselves.

