



# 13th Annual Free Elementary School Tour

*A World Premiere*



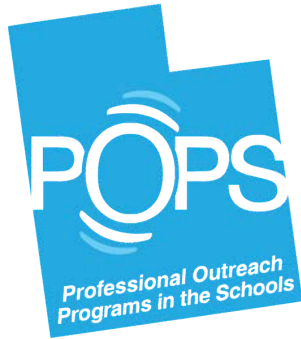
*by Elaine Jarvik*  
*for grades K-3*

## STUDY GUIDE

*by Jaimi Butler, Penelope Caywood,  
and Sarah Meservy*

*Reviewed by Darren Parry, Shoshone Elder*

# Major Sponsors



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**Wake  
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**PUBLIC ART  
CHALLENGE**

**Flo, a fantastic flamingo who craves adventure meets Eb, a sensible seagull worried about a shrinking lake.**

**They concoct a unique way to spread the word about the importance of Great Salt Lake and how small actions can have big effects.**

## **What to Expect**

**5 mins Introduction** You'll meet the actors, learn some basic theatre terms, and get ready for the interactive elements of the play.

**25 mins The Play**

**5 mins Post-Show Discussion** Students have the chance to answer questions about the play's themes and characters.

## **Intended Learning Outcomes**

- Cultivate an appreciation for theatre and its power to illuminate complex topics
- Enhance understanding of animal migration and ecosystem balance
- Develop social and emotional skills, including making friends, celebrating strengths, naming and managing emotions, and collaborative problem-solving

## **Accessibility**

- The full performance is also available as video-on-demand, including a pre-recorded version of the pre- and post-show discussions and closed captioning in English and Spanish.
- All actors wear microphones during live performances.
- Public performances feature ASL interpretation.
- The Digital Playbill includes links to this study guide and the script in 18-point font (all of which are also available on our [free app](#)).

## Introduction

A vibrant and engaging introduction to theatre for K-3 students, EB & FLO by Elaine Jarvik explores science through storytelling. This play isn't just a fun activity; it's an immersive experience that helps develop young learners' listening skills, enriches their vocabulary, and boosts their understanding of narrative structures. Early exposure to theatre fosters a lifelong appreciation for the arts, enhancing students' cultural literacy and creative expression. Theatre also encourages empathy by allowing children to see the world through the eyes of characters different from themselves.

EB & FLO provides students with a rich, multifaceted learning experience that combines science, social studies, and the arts, all while instilling important values about environmental preservation and community engagement.

## Study Guide Core Standards

### Discussion Questions

p. 5

- Language Arts: (K-3).SL, (K-3).R.5
- Health Education: K.HF.2, 1.HF.3, 2.HF.5, 3.HF.3

### The True Story of Pink Floyd the Flamingo

p. 5, 7

- Language Arts: (2-3).R.4, (2-3).R.5, 3.R.8, (2-3).R.9, (2-3).W.3

### Ecosystems

p. 8-14

- Language Arts (2-3).W.4
- Science: SEEd.K.2.2, SEEd.1.2.1, SEEd.2.2.1, SEEd.3.2.5
- Social Studies: 3.1

### We are all connected

p. 15-16

- Social Studies: 1.5, 2.1
- Science: SEEd.K.2.3, SEEd.1.2.4, SEEd.3.2.4, SEEd.4.1.1

### We all play a part at Great Salt Lake!

p. 17

- Social Studies: 1.5, 2.1, 3.1
- Science: SEEd.K.2.4
- Fine Arts: (K-3).Theatre.CR.1, (K-2).Theatre.CR.3, 3.Theatre.CR.3, (K-3).Theatre.CR.5, 3.Theatre.CR.6, (K-3).Theatre.P.1, (K-3).Theatre.P.6

# SEL Outcomes

EB & FLO supports all six of [USBE's Social Emotional Learning Outcomes](#).



## **Outcome 1: Understand and Manage Emotions**

Flo helps Eb to name and externalize their feelings of worry about the lake.

## **Outcome 2: Set and Achieve Positive Goals**

When faced with a difficult challenge, Eb and Flo work together to identify actions within their control, create a plan, and outline steps they can take to make a difference.

## **Outcome 3: Feel and Show Empathy For Others**

Seeing the world through the eyes of characters different from themselves helps students build empathy. Flo demonstrates empathy by listening to and validating Eb's worry.

## **Outcome 4: Establish and Maintain Positive Relationships**

Eb and Flo provide a positive model of how to meet a new person and become friends with someone who is different from you. They listen to each other and brainstorm ideas together.

## **Outcome 5: Make Responsible Decisions**

Flo models curiosity and open-mindedness as they learn about the lake. Eb and Flo recognize the role emotions play in decision-making as they discuss Eb's worry. The play explores the impact that decisions have on individuals and the community.

## **Outcome 6: Self-Advocate**

The characters model asking for help when you need it. Flo models asking for clarification when they don't understand what Eb is teaching them. Both Eb and Flo discuss and celebrate their strengths.

## It's Okay to be Salty!

Great Salt Lake, where EB & FLO takes place, is one of the most diverse and important ecosystems in the world! 12 million birds and over 2.5 million humans rely on this ecosystem. It is home to our state crustacean (the brine shrimp) and our state bird (the California gull). We have a duty to care for and protect this amazing and unique salty lake.

## The Great Great Salt Lake Monster Mystery

by Dr. Bonnie K. Baxter & Jaimi Butler, illustrated by Arly Landry



A picture book for grades K-6 that sparks wonder and curiosity about our inland sea inspired by the authors' experiences studying the Great Salt Lake.

A group of kids searching for the fabled Great Salt Lake Monster encounter tiny baby monsters (brine flies), monster food (brine shrimp), giant furry creatures (bison), the ridges of the monster's back (microbialites), pooids, and much more!

Plan-B is gifting a hard copy of *The Great Great Salt Lake Monster Mystery* to each school that EB & FLO visits in person.

Our videobook version is specifically designed for classroom use. Featuring ASL interpretation, audio description, and open captions.

[Watch the Accessible Videobook](#)



## Vocabulary

After going over the words together, use the cards on the page 6 to [play a game](#) like memory, bingo, or go fish.

## Discussion Questions

- How are Eb and Flo different?
- What do Eb and Flo have in common?
- Flo loves many things about being a flamingo. Eb describes eating garbage as a superpower. What do you love about being you? What is your superpower?
- What can we learn from Eb's cautious behavior and Flo's adventurous spirit?
- Even though they are very different, Flo and Eb become friends and work together. What things do you do to be a good friend to people who are different from you?
- Why is Eb worried about the lake shrinking?
- How can we help protect our local environments?

## The True Story of Pink Floyd the Flamingo

Playwright Elaine Jarvik was inspired by [the true story of a flamingo that escaped from Tracy Aviary in 1988](#). Have your students read the story on page 7. Before reading, ask questions to activate background knowledge:

- Have you ever seen flamingos? Where did you see them?
- What do you know about flamingos?
- What kind of habitat do flamingos need?










After reading the story, check comprehension:

- At the beginning of the story, where did Pink Floyd live?
- What did Pink Floyd find to eat at the lake?
- What other kinds of birds lived at the lake?
- Why do you think Pink Floyd chose to live at the lake instead of the aviary?
- Where would you want to live if you were a bird?

Invite students to imagine what life would be like as a bird and write their own story.



# EB & FLO VOCABULARY CARDS

brine shrimp		a tiny animal that lives in Great Salt Lake
ecosystem		An community of living and nonliving things
conservation		taking care of natural resources
migration		animals moving to another region
habitat		the natural home of a living thing
flamingo		a big pink wading bird
seagull		a white or grey bird that lives near water
minerals		natural crystals like salt or calcium
evaporation		when water turns into vapor



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## The True Story of Pink Floyd the Flamingo

Pink Floyd was a Chilean flamingo. Most Chilean flamingos live in South America. Pink Floyd's flock lived in Utah. They lived at Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City. The flamingos couldn't fly because the keeper clipped their wings. But in the fall of 1988, the keeper forgot to clip Pink Floyd's wings.

One day Pink Floyd left his flock.  
He flew west and found a beautiful lake.  
There were lots of brine shrimp to eat.



Pink Floyd lived in the wild for 17 years. He was the only wild flamingo in Utah. He made friends with gulls, geese, and swans. In the summer he flew away to explore other lakes, but he returned to Great Salt Lake every winter until 2005.

**Underline each of these words and phrases in the story above.  
Draw a line to connect the word or phrase with its definition.**

### Word or Phrase

### Definition

Chilean flamingo	a zoo for birds
flock	a group of birds
aviary	a tall pink bird from South America
clip	outside in nature, not in a zoo
in the wild	cut or trim

# Exploring Ecosystems

Great Salt Lake is one of the most diverse places on earth! Because different parts of the lake have different salinity (saltiness), different living things thrive there. Use the following resources to explore three different habitats.

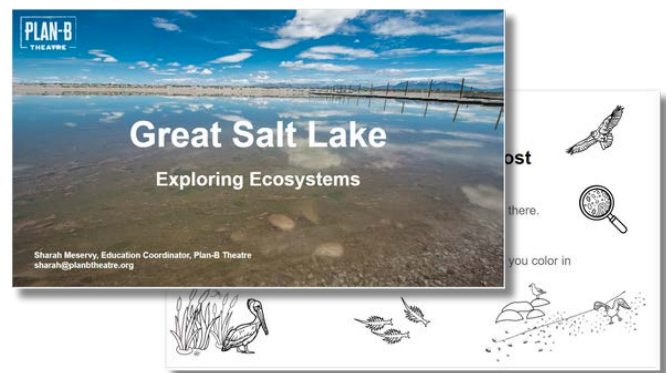
## Habitat Dioramas

Print and color the dioramas on the following pages to learn about what you can see if you visit the lake. Pages 9-14 should be printed double-sided.

## Slides

As students color their dioramas, use this slide deck on a projector or smart board to learn more about the living things (and a few nonliving things) depicted in the dioramas. You won't be able to cover everything, so let your students' curiosity guide your classroom discussion.

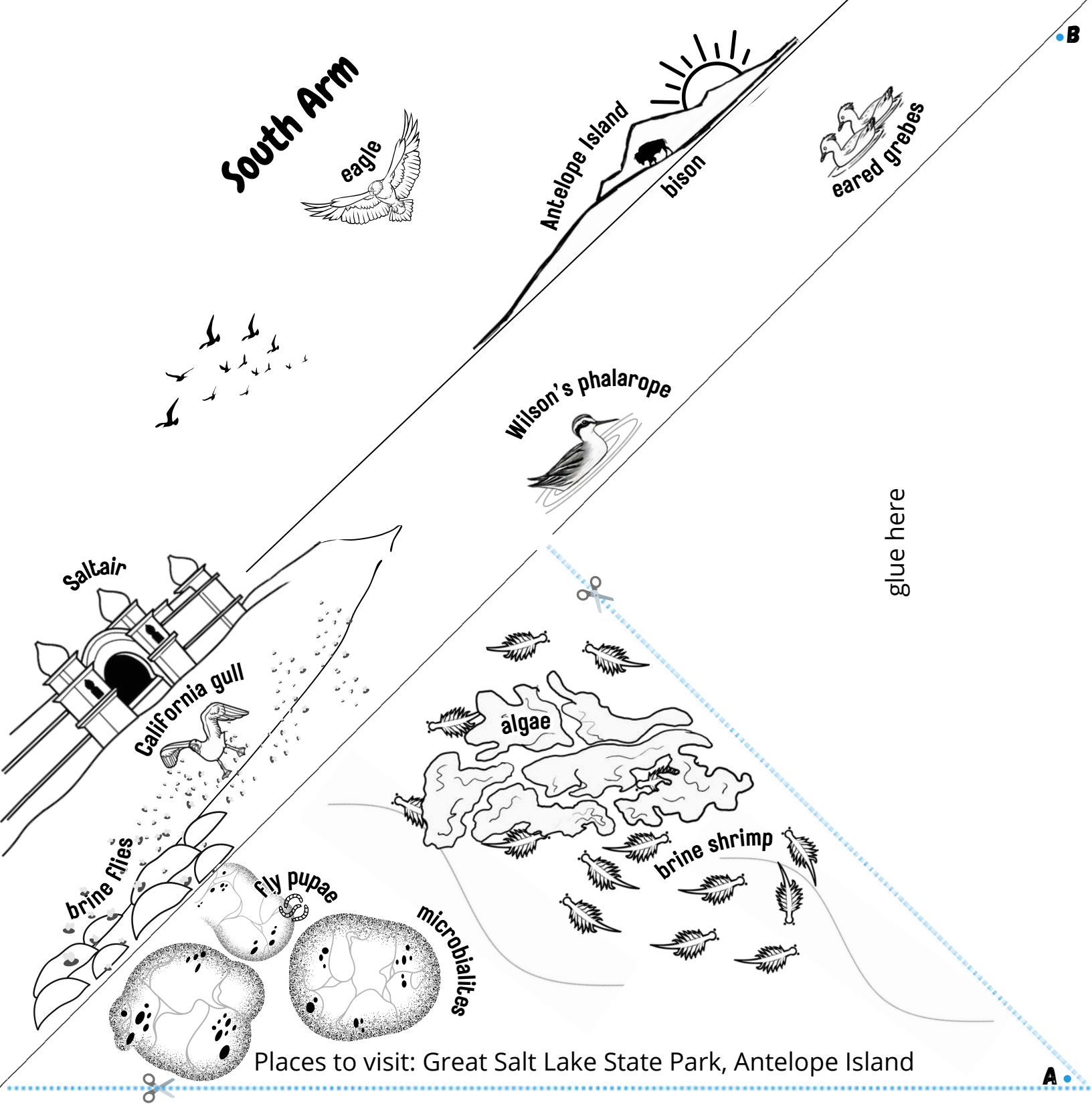
View the slides on Google Presentations or download them to your computer.



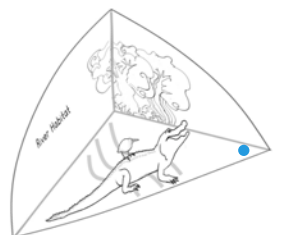
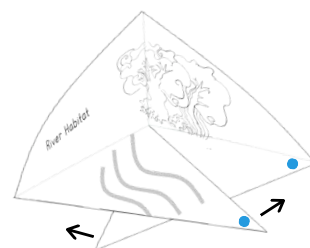
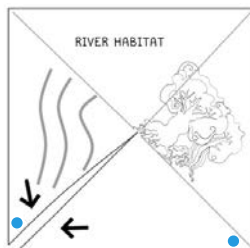
- [Access slides](#)
- [Print the presenter notes](#)

## More Resources on Great Salt Lake's Ecosystems

- [Guide to Common Birds of Great Salt Lake](#)
- [Wetlands Web Lesson Plan](#) and [activity cards](#)
- [Great Salt Lake Food Web](#)



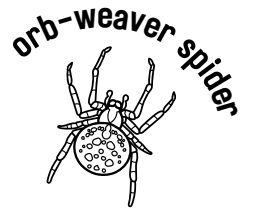
1. Color in the diorama.
2. Cut along the dotted lines.
3. Fold along the solid lines.
4. Overlap point A over point B.
5. Use glue or staples to fasten.



## Spring & Summer



It smells the worst when it's hot! Wear a head net to protect yourself from biting bugs. Look for migrating birds, brine shrimp, and swarms of brine flies. Go for a swim, but be sure to rinse off after.



## Fall

Fall is the most comfortable time to visit the south arm! The biting bugs are mostly gone. There are LOTS of spiders, but they don't bite.

## Winter

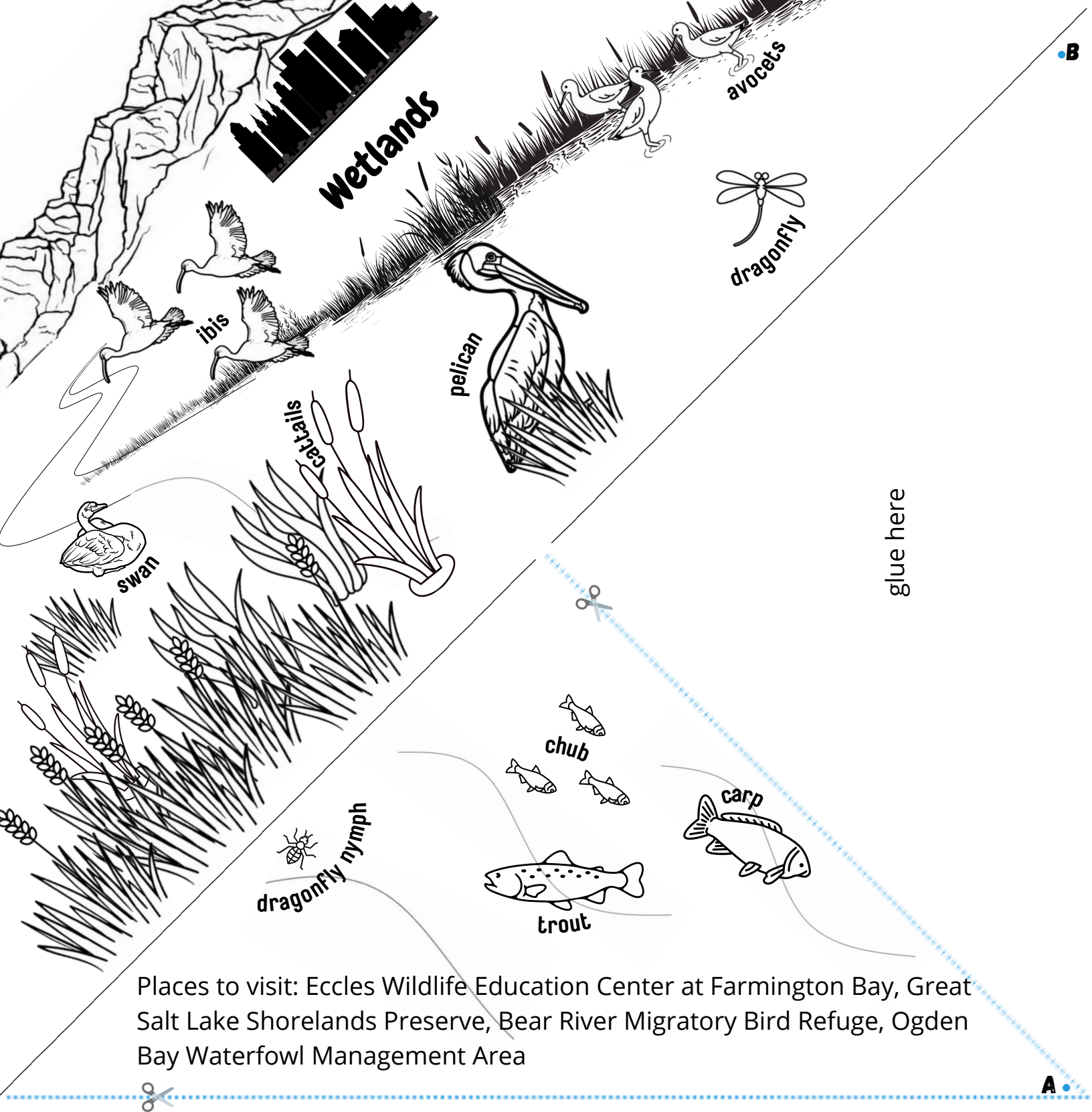


No biting bugs when it's cold! Ducks, bald eagles, and many other birds spend the winter here. Ice piles up on the shore and you might encounter "pickled" dead birds. The salt and cold temperatures keep dead things from decomposing!

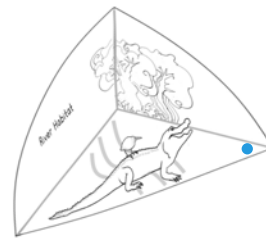
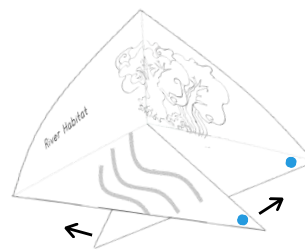
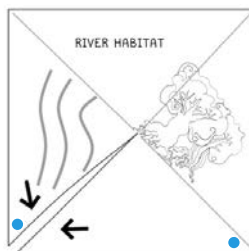
glue here



Print on reverse of South Arm diorama.



1. Color in the diorama.
2. Cut along the dotted lines.
3. Fold along the solid lines.
4. Overlap point A over point B.
5. Use glue or staples to fasten.





## Spring & Summer

Spring is migration time so the wetlands are busy with birds! How many types of birds do you see? Can you hear the frogs croaking? There are LOTS of bugs so be sure to protect yourself.

## Fall

You'll see lots of ducks that migrate here in the fall and stay through the winter. You might see people going hunting. The wetlands have bugs even in the fall so bring protection!

## Winter



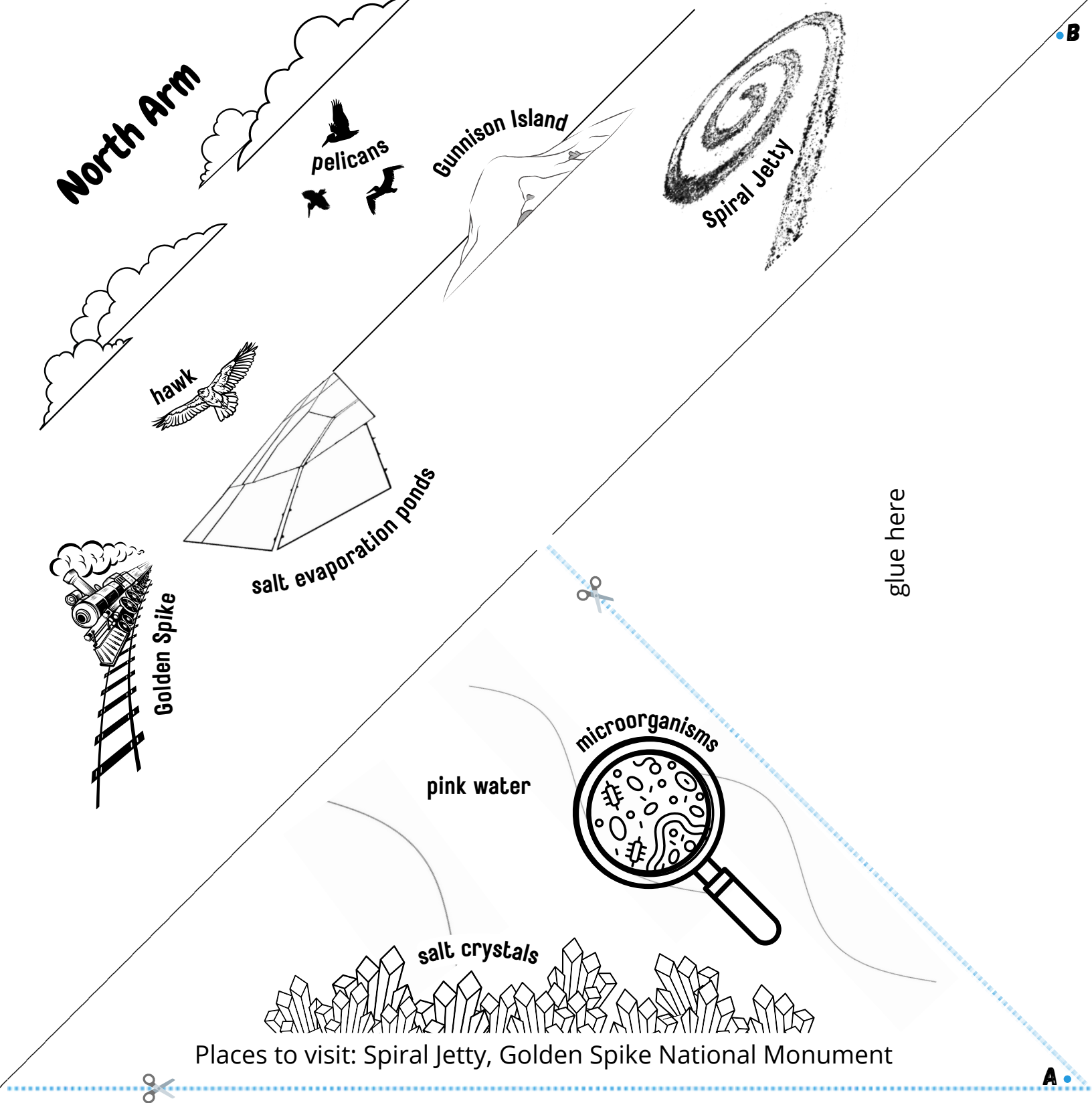
bald eagle

It's cold and windy. The water is covered with ice. This means that there are no pue swans or for swans and biting bugs! Look for bald eagles. raptors like bald eagles.

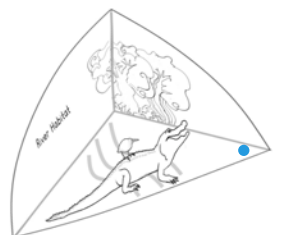
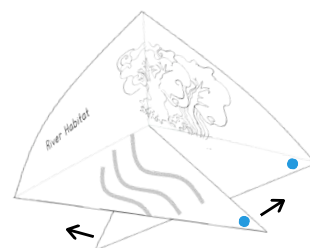
glue here



Print on reverse of Wetlands diorama.



1. Color in the diorama.
2. Cut along the dotted lines.
3. Fold along the solid lines.
4. Overlap point A over point B.
5. Use glue or staples to fasten.





burrowing owl

## Spring & Summer

Look for pelicans flying overhead on their way to catch food for their young in the wetlands. You'll also see raptors like hawks and burrowing owls.

## Fall

This is the most comfortable time to visit this extreme environment when it is not so hot and sunny. Enjoy the long drive through the scenic landscape with plenty of snacks and water.

## Winter

It gets really cold and windy so dress warmly. Wear tall waterproof boots as you'll walk through slush when you're near the water. Minerals from the water form mounds of crystals.



glue here



Print on reverse of North Arm diorama.

## We are all connected.

How does Great Salt Lake matter to birds all over the world? Great Salt Lake is a critical rest stop on the hemispheric highway for migrating birds.

### Wilson's Phalaropes

Every fall, Wilson's phalaropes gather on Great Salt Lake before migrating to spend the winter in South America. They eat brine shrimp, brine flies, and other insects, so the lake is the perfect place for them to fill up before their long journey. Phalaropes have an interesting trick to help them catch food: they spin in circles on the surface of the water to create a vortex that pulls brine shrimp and other prey to the surface.

Watch these short clips of Wilson's phalaropes with your students and discuss how they affect their surroundings to get what they need, and what behaviors help them survive.



### [The Frenetic Wilson's Phalarope](#)

by Jo Atwood



### [Wilson's Phalaropes Spinning in Water](#)

by Backyard Birds



**For younger students:** [Wilson's phalarope coloring page](#) from BirdsCarribean.

**For older students:** Have your class complete a jigsaw activity on Wilson's phalarope. Assign each student one topic to explore such as diet, life cycle, or migration patterns. Then group them with students who were assigned different topics. Have each student share three key concepts of what they learned with their group. Suggested resources: the [National Audubon Society](#), [Kiddle](#), and the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#).

## Sister Lakes

Did you know that Great Salt Lake has sisters? Some of its salty sisters are Mono Lake in California, Lake Chaplain in Canada, and Laguna Mar Chiquita in Argentina. All three lakes are important habitats for migrating birds. Marcela Castellino grew up near Laguna Mar Chiquita. Today she is a scientist who studies Wilson's phalaropes.

These short audio clips about Marcela Castellino from BirdNote (around 2 min. each) are great for Spanish dual immersion students!

- Listen in English: [Inspired by A Lake and a Sister](#)
- Listen in Spanish: [Una laguna y mi hermana, mis fuentes de inspiración](#)
- Listen in English: [The Wilson's Phalarope's Dance](#)
- Listen in Spanish: [El baile del falaropo de Wilson](#)

Watch this video from KSL with your class:  
[Over 500K birds fueling up at Great Salt Lake for migration to Argentina](#) (2:53)

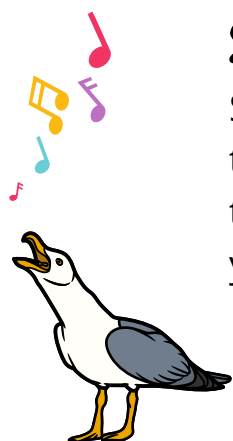


Discuss these questions:

- What does it mean to migrate?
- What makes Great Salt Lake a good habitat for Wilson's phalaropes?
- What is the connection between Mar Chiquita and Great Salt Lake?
- Why did Marcela Castellino come all the way to Utah to study birds?
- If Great Salt Lake dried up, what do you think would happen to the birds like Wilson's phalaropes which fill up on brine shrimp before their long journey to Argentina?

## More Resources on Bird Migration

- Explore [this map](#) that shows migration of different shorebirds. Where do they come from and where do they go? Do they stop at Great Salt Lake?
- Use the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network's [Migration Mania lesson plan](#) (grades 3-8) to teach your students about migration, expand on habitat needs, and introduce threats and conservation actions.



## Songs

Students will be invited to sing along with Eb and Flo during the play. If your class would enjoy learning the songs ahead of time (not required!) or want to sing them again after the play, you'll find the lyrics on page 18.

### On My Way Home



[Sheet Music](#)



[Words & Music](#)



[Music Only](#)

### Gotta Do What It Takes



[Sheet Music](#)



[Words & Music](#)



[Music Only](#)

## We all play a part at Great Salt Lake!

Great Salt Lake is shrinking. This means that the water is getting too salty and there is less habitat for the bugs and birds that eat them. The dust on the dry lakebed can also get blown into the air. Everyone—even elementary school students—can play a part in shaping the future of our Great Salt Lake!

What part are you going to play? Have students [make finger puppets](#) of themselves and [create short plays](#) about what they will do to protect the lake. Students might want to incorporate nonhuman characters (like brine shrimp or birds) and have them explain why Great Salt Lake is so important to them.

Hi! I'm Brianna the brine shrimp. I love eating algae. Mmm—mmm!

Last year it got REALLY salty around here! I was so stressed.



### Another Resource on Conservation

[Shore Birds at Risk: Threats and Actions Lesson Plan](#)

(grades 3-6) from the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network

## On the Bird Highway

Lyrns by Elaine Jarvik

Music by Penelope Caywood

### CHORUS:

I'm on the bird highway  
A really high highway  
I'm on the bird highway  
On my way home.  
(repeat)

### VERSE 1:

I am flying and a-flapping  
I'd rather be napping  
I just wanna set down my feet  
I am flying and a-soaring  
it's a little bit boring  
And i need something to eat.

### (CHORUS)

### VERSE: 2

I am gliding and a-drifting  
'cuz the wind is so uplifting  
But i need somewhere to rest  
I will make a special landing  
In a place that's so outstanding  
Gonna build a brand new nest.

### (CHORUS)

### VERSE 3:

Hooray for the lake  
Hooray, hooray  
The great salt lake has saved the day  
Hooray for the lake  
Hooray, hooray  
The great salt lake has saved the day!



## Gotta Do What It Takes

Lyrns by Elaine Jarvik

Music by Penelope Caywood

Shake your feathers, get on your feet  
'Cuz all the birds need something to eat  
Shake your feathers, do what you oughta  
The great salt lake needs lots more water  
It's the great, great, great  
The great, great, great  
Great salt lake!

Gotta save our lake,  
Gotta do what it takes  
Gotta save our lake  
Gotta do what it takes  
Gotta save our lake  
Gotta do what it takes.

## Visit the Lake (In-Person and Virtually)

No matter where you are, there are opportunities for your class to explore Great Salt Lake!



Take a [virtual field trip to the Natural History Museum of Utah](#) to learn about the history of the Great Salt Lake.

Located in Davis County and accessible by a causeway, [Antelope Island State Park](#) is teeming with wildlife and offers beautiful views of the lake. In addition to other events throughout the year, the park hosts an annual Spider Fest to celebrate the orb-weaver spider.

[Great Salt Lake State Park](#) is a short drive from Salt Lake City. You can see Saltair, walk along the beach, and even take a boat tour.

Friends of Great Salt Lake offer [Lakeside Learning Field Trips](#) for fourth grade students at two locations: Antelope Island State Park (open to all schools) and Great Salt Lake State Park (open only to the Tooele County School District). Teachers of all grades should check out their many [educational resources](#), including self-guided field trips for both locations.

The Nature Conservancy offers [Wings and Water](#), a comprehensive program that includes a field trip to the GSL Shorelands Preserve in Layton. Also available is a free downloadable [audio tour](#).

Visit the annual [GSL Bird Festival](#) which takes place at multiple locations throughout Utah.

Visit the iconic [Spiral Jetty](#) in Box Elder County. Check out a backpack put together by [Utah Museum of Fine Arts](#) from the museum, the Salt Lake City Public Library or Logan Library.