



Exploring the Gulf of Maine

You're on a QUEST!

Explore the Gulf of Maine and its watershed with your family.

1. Begin by collecting background information on the Gulf of Maine. To do this, visit your local library, or go to the Internet. Research the following:

- Find the geographic boundaries of the Gulf of Maine.
- Trace all of the rivers emptying into the Gulf of Maine back to their sources.
- Make a copy of a map of the Gulf of Maine. Draw a boundary around the Gulf of Maine watershed.

2. Investigate what you eat. Select a species of fish that you might eat that comes from the Gulf of Maine. Then research the following:

- Find out the life cycle of your species. Where does it spawn? Does it lay eggs? For how long does it live? How long does it take for it to mature so that it can reproduce?
- Does this species always live in the open waters of the ocean, or does it come closer to shore, or go upstream in a river, during some part of its life?
- Are there any threats to this species in the Gulf of Maine today?

Here are some Internet sites you can visit for your research:

Gulf of Maine Aquarium Research and education programs on the Gulf of Maine
octopus.gma.org

Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment

Representatives from three states and two Canadian provinces working together to manage the Gulf of Maine; good overview of Gulf of Maine resources
www.gulfofmaine.org

Maine Department of Marine Resources Policy, educational resources, and an aquarium
<http://www.maine.gov/dmr/>

Northeast Fisheries Science Center Status of fisheries resources by species
<http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/sos/spsyn/species.html>

Virtual Gulf of Maine
<http://www.atlantisforce.org/gombankmap.html>

3. Finally, support your local fishermen by eating a seafood meal!

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