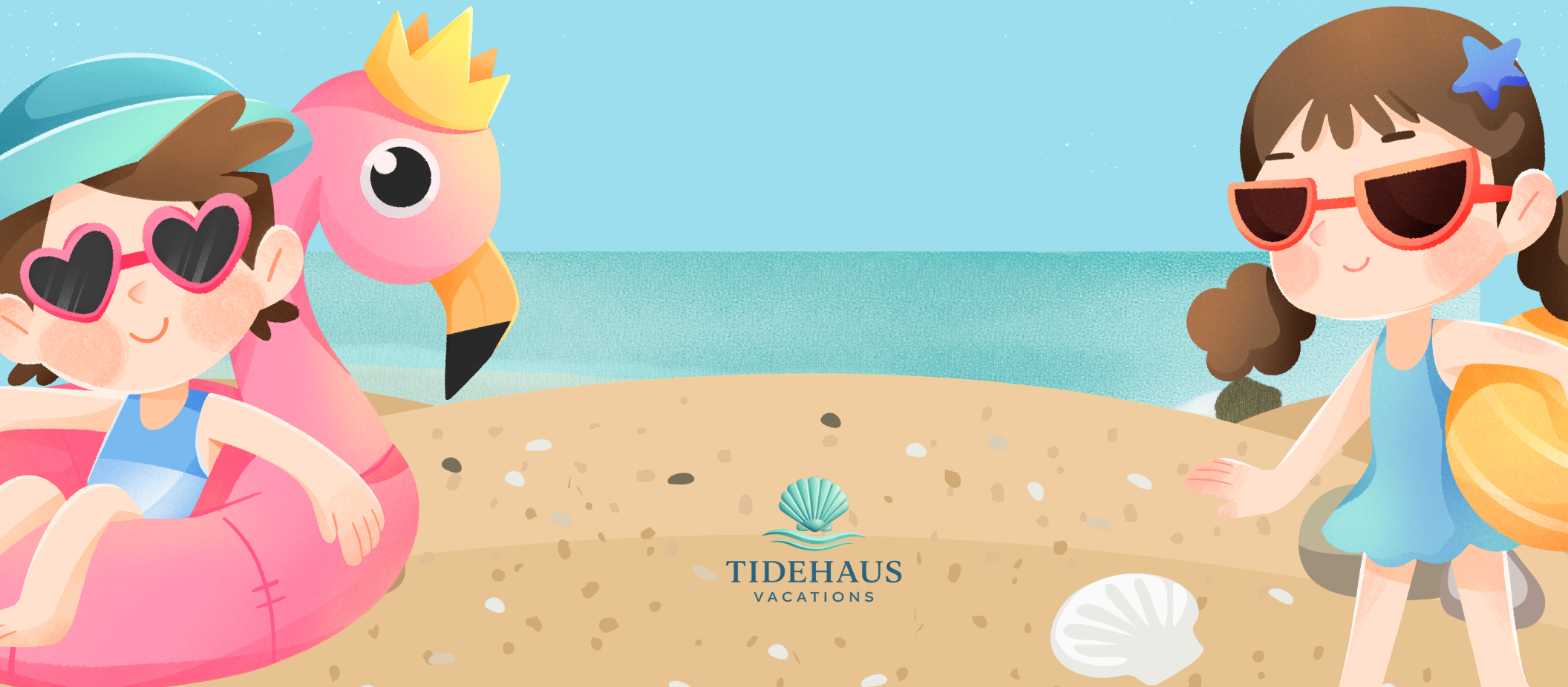
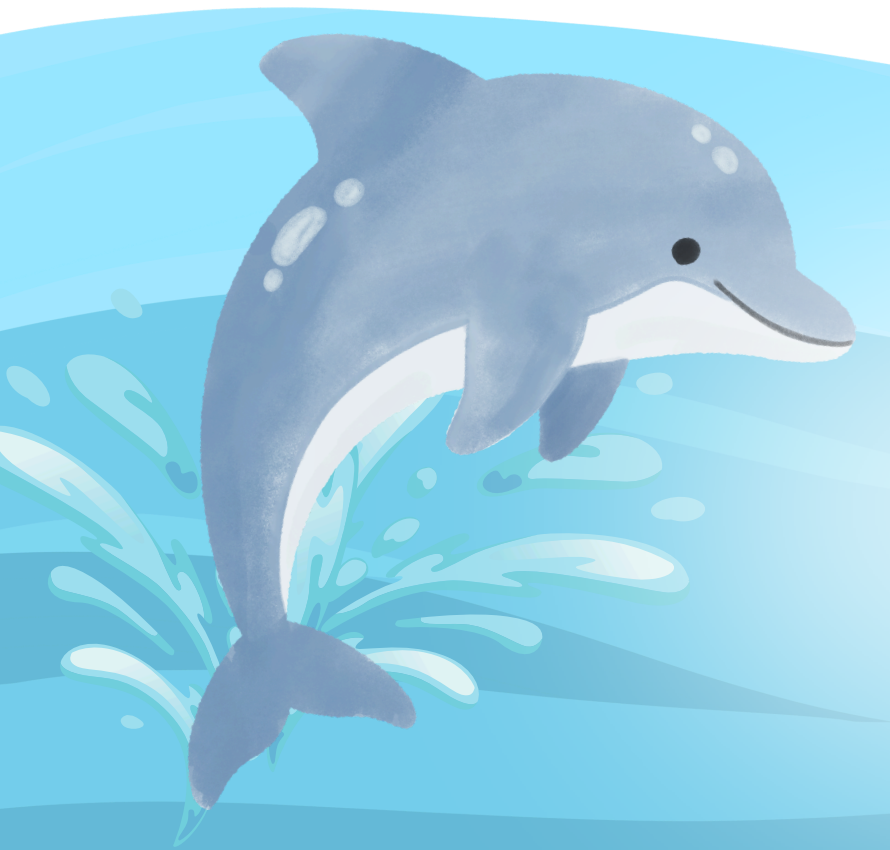


Indian Shores Wildlife Guide



Dolphins

Indian Shores sits along one of the most active dolphin corridors on Florida's Gulf Coast. Bottlenose dolphins are frequently spotted directly from our beachfront condo balcony — typically in the early morning and late afternoon when they feed closest to shore. It is not uncommon to see pods of 3–8 dolphins swimming just yards from the beach.



Viewing Tips:

- Best times: 6–9am and 4–7pm
- Look for dorsal fins breaking the surface in small groups
- Dolphins are protected — observe from a distance and never attempt to feed or touch them

Manatees

The Florida manatees are gentle giants that frequent the warm Gulf waters near Indian Shores – especially in summer when water temperatures are warmest. Often called 'sea cows,' these peaceful creatures can weigh up to 1,200 pounds and live for more than 60 years.

How to spot them:

- Look for large dark shapes moving slowly just beneath the surface
- Watch for "manatee footprints" – flat circular rings on the water created by tail flukes
- They surface to breathe every 3–5 minutes — once you see a footprint, watch that spot
- Best months to see them: May through October when Gulf water is warmest
- November–April, you have a good chance of seeing manatees at the Tampa Electric Manatee Viewing Center where they are attracted to the warmer water discharged from the plant



Seaside Seabird Sanctuary

Indian Shores is home to the largest wild bird hospital in the United States. The Seaside Seabird Sanctuary rescues, rehabilitates, and releases injured birds including pelicans, owls, herons, and osprey. The Sanctuary is free to visit daily. Guests can see many species of birds up close, including "Meatball" a resident Roseate Spoonbill. He got his name because he refuses to eat standard sanctuary fare like fish or shrimp, choosing instead to eat mealworms and ground beef meatballs!



Seabirds



Osprey

Dark back, white belly, bent wings.
Catches fish in feet—first dives.

Royal Tern

Orange bill, black cap, graceful flier.
Nests in massive colonies.

Brown Pelican

Large, brown, long bill with pouch.
Dives from 60+ feet for fish.

Laughing Gull

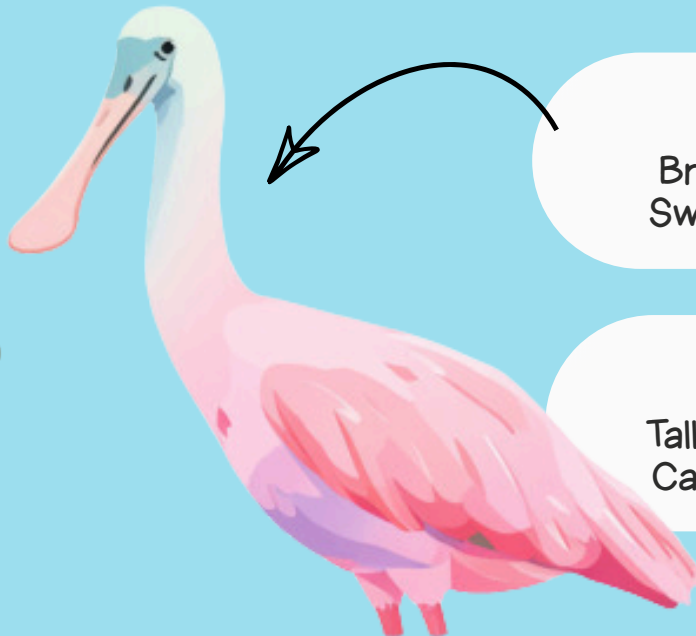
Black head, red bill, distinctive call.
Named for its laughing cry.

Roseate Spoonbill

Bright pink, spoon-shaped bill.
Swings bill side to side to feed.

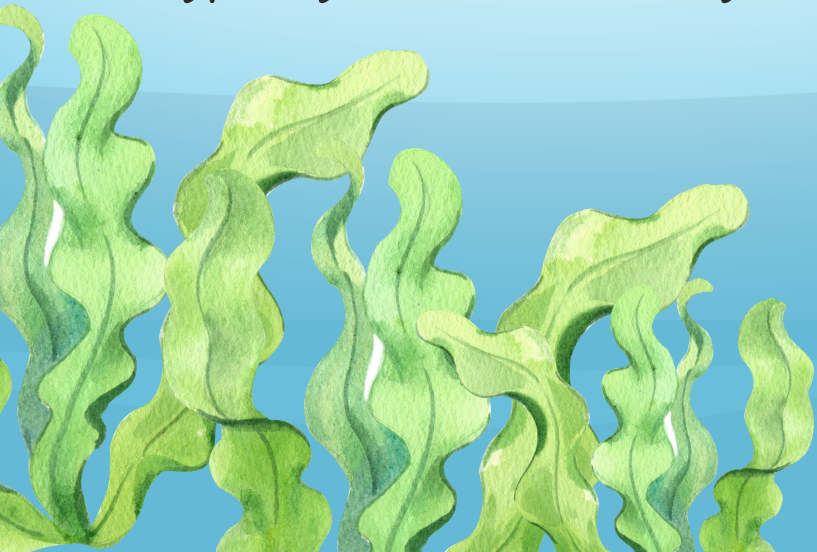
Great Blue Heron

Tall, blue-gray, stands motionless.
Can stand still for hours hunting.



Sea Turtles

May through October is sea turtle nesting season on Gulf Coast beaches. Loggerhead sea turtles — and occasionally green sea turtles or Kemp's ridley sea turtles — come ashore at night to lay eggs above the tide line. Nests are marked by wooden stakes and orange tape by volunteer conservation teams. Sea turtle nests typically hatch 50–60 days after being laid.



Hatchlings

Sea turtle hatchlings (new babies) emerge from underground sand nests, making a perilous night-time dash to the ocean where only about 1 in 1,000 survives to adulthood.

How to be a responsible "Hatchling Helper":

- Never disturb marked nests – orange stakes and tape mean an active nest is present
- Do not use flashlights or phone lights near the water at night — light disorients hatchlings
- Clean up any obstacles before leaving the beach for the night, fill in holes, and level any sand structures that could get in the way of nesting turtles or hatchlings
- If you see hatchlings heading to the water give them space and never pick them up



Shells

Indian Shores and the surrounding Gulf beaches offer excellent shelling – especially after storms and during low tide when the receding water exposes treasures along the shoreline. The Gulf's calm warm waters are gentler on shells than Atlantic beaches, meaning you're more likely to find complete specimens here.



Sand Dollar

Flat, round, white when dry. Find just offshore in shallow water.



Calico Scallop

Fan shaped, multi-colored. Most likely to see after storms.



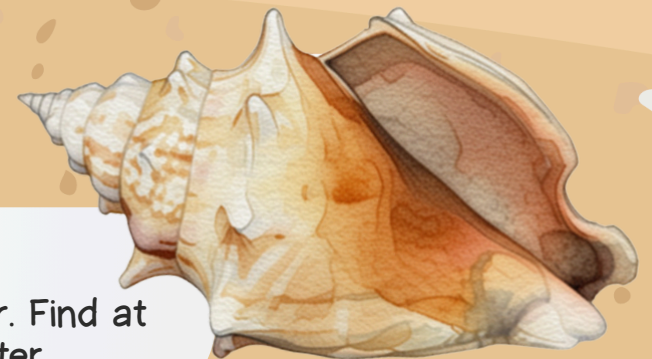
Lightning Whelk

Florida's state shell, spiral, left-handed. Most likely to find after storms, in low tide.



Shark Tooth

Dark gray/black, triangular. Find at water's edge, low tide.



Fighting Conch

Pointed spiral, orange interior. Find at low tide in shallow water.

Did You Know?

Sand Dollar

A sand dollar's flower pattern on top is actually five sets of pores used for breathing underwater

Tides

Most beaches in the world experience two high tides and two low tides every single day. But the Gulf is special — it only experiences ONE high tide and ONE low tide per day. Scientists call this a "diurnal tide".

Lightning Whelk

The lightning whelk is one of the only shells in the world that spirals to the left — making it genuinely rare and prized by collectors

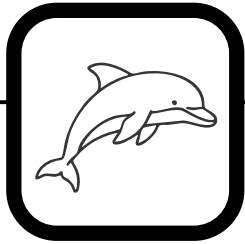
Sand

Gulf Coast sand is made up of over 99% quartz — where most other beaches are a mixture of quartz and other rock.

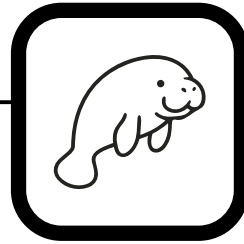


Indian Shores Wildlife Tracker

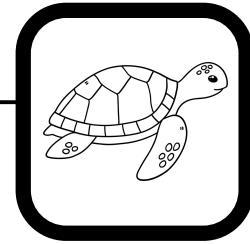
Make a tally mark for each animal you see on your vacation



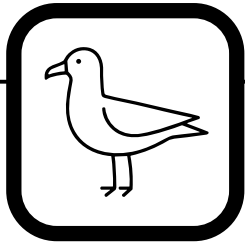
Dolphin



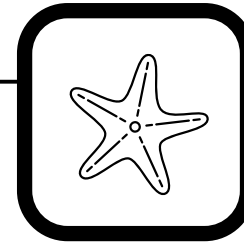
Manatee



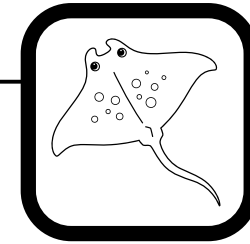
Sea Turtle



Seagull



Starfish



Stingray

Indian Shores Word Search



P	S	K	K	I	G	P	I	R	V	U	Z	R	N	Y	C	M	Y
S	Z	N	I	S	T	I	N	G	R	A	Y	L	A	B	D	S	T
N	X	Y	O	B	F	J	J	C	W	H	C	X	V	F	P	N	S
L	L	J	M	I	S	E	R	O	H	S	N	A	I	D	N	I	A
V	I	V	I	M	T	Z	H	W	K	S	C	V	O	I	U	H	O
M	Q	R	C	X	Y	A	H	S	R	J	H	I	V	I	V	D	C
S	C	Z	X	J	X	B	C	A	I	A	F	A	V	Q	K	P	F
F	L	O	R	I	D	A	L	A	M	F	V	Y	R	I	J	H	L
E	D	I	T	W	O	L	E	L	V	G	R	X	Q	K	Z	A	U
M	U	P	E	N	O	S	S	N	D	S	N	A	H	G	E	K	G
E	K	T	D	D	R	Q	S	Y	K	O	U	H	T	J	E	Q	Y
Z	B	V	D	O	N	E	I	B	M	Z	L	A	W	S	I	Z	J
Z	N	N	H	A	A	C	F	A	P	L	U	P	H	X	Q	B	K
N	A	A	V	G	R	K	N	O	T	T	A	U	H	E	U	E	V
S	E	C	U	A	J	A	Z	O	Z	T	L	A	Q	I	D	T	O
S	B	L	B	U	T	Y	L	Q	H	C	H	V	T	E	N	I	U
G	L	Z	E	E	N	S	E	A	T	U	R	T	L	E	Q	W	T
G	T	P	E	L	I	C	A	N	U	X	D	V	L	O	W	P	E

Can you find all of the ocean themed words?

TIDEHAUS VACATIONS

SEA TURTLE

MANATEE

FLORIDA

INDIAN SHORES

STARFISH

DOLPHIN

GULF COAST

SAND DOLLAR

STINGRAY

PELICAN

SHARK

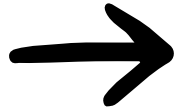
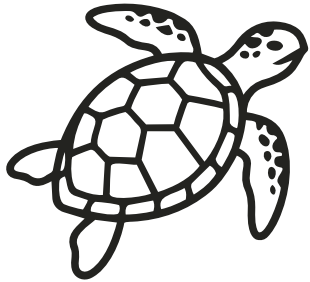
CRAB

SEAHORSE

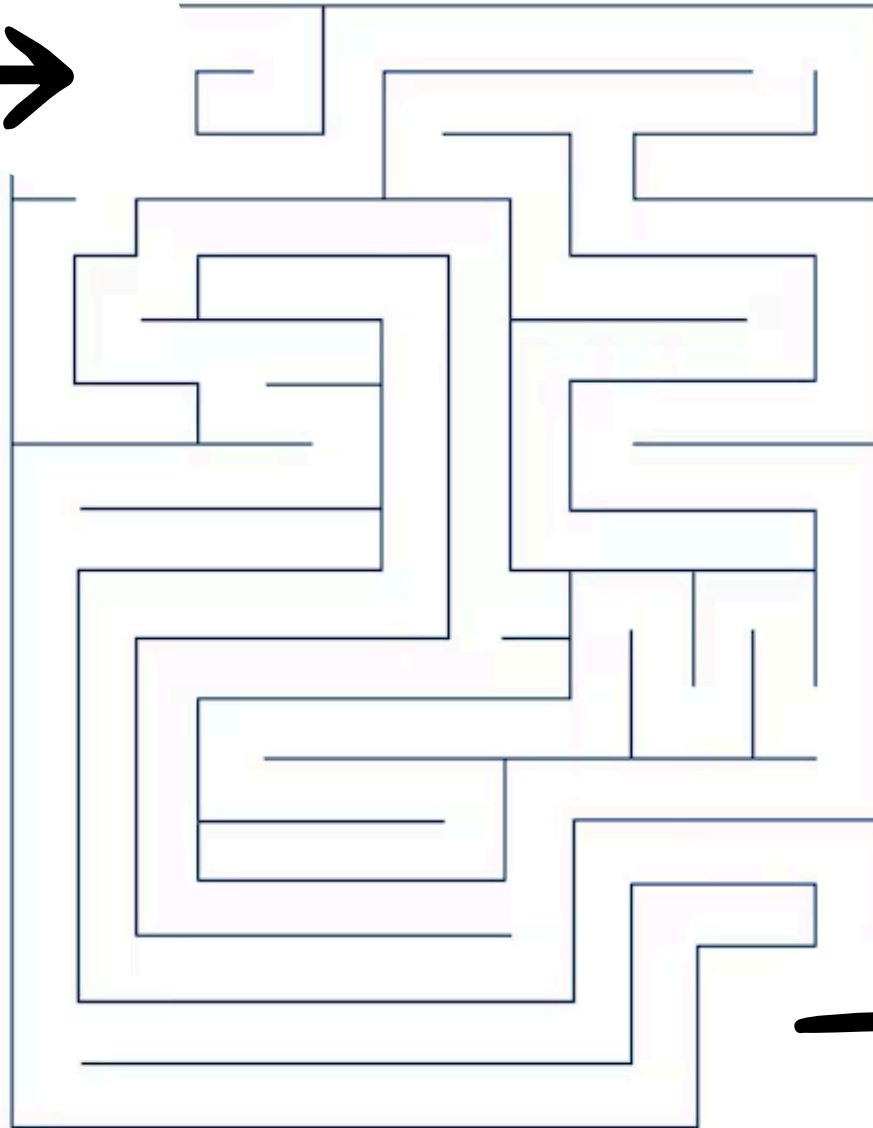
LOW TIDE

SEAGULL

Indian Shores Maze



Help the baby sea
turtle



get to the ocean!



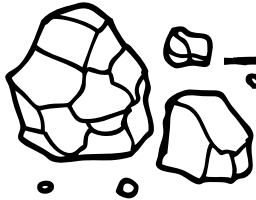
Indian Shores BEACH WALK



Go for a beach walk - Use
your senses to list what
you hear, see, feel, and
smell



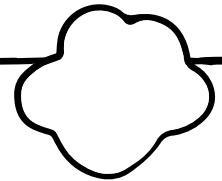
IN THE
SAND



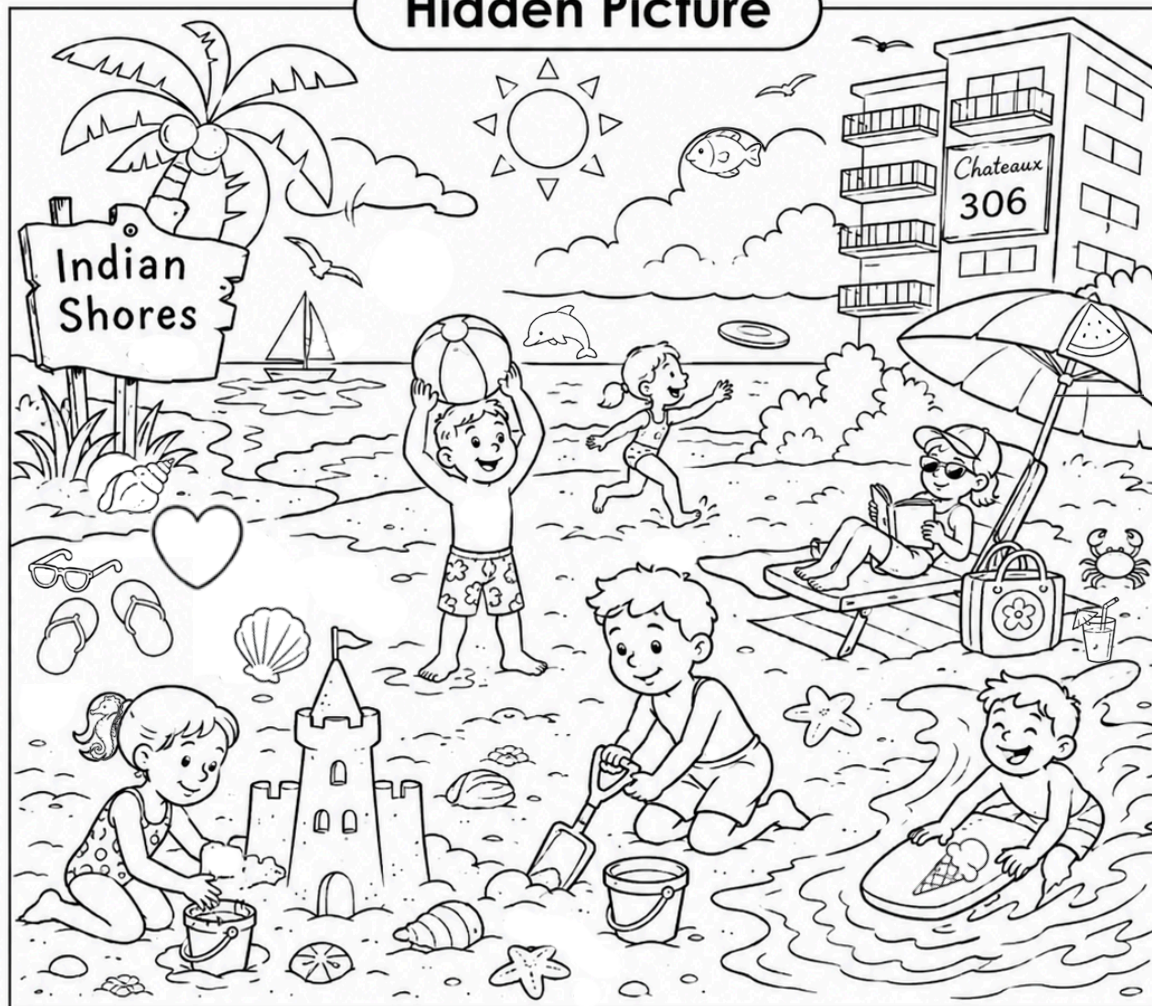
IN THE
WATER



IN THE
SKY



Hidden Picture



Can you find the hidden pictures?

