

# Eco-Explorers Virtual Field Trip

Aquatic Resources Education Center, 2520 Lighthouse Road, Smyrna, DE 19977

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Use the plants listed below to fill in the blank with the name of the correct plant.

Saltmarsh cordgrass

Saltmeadow hay

Phragmites

Red cedar

High-tide bush

Spearscale

Big cordgrass

1. **Phragmites** I have long, under-ground stems to spread fast and take over wetland areas, for this reason they call me the bully of the marsh.
2. **Big cordgrass** A rare kind of butterfly lays its eggs on only my stems.
3. **Spearscale** I am a vitamin- rich plant growing in the shade of taller salt marsh plants.
4. **Red cedar** My evergreen branches provide shelter and food for animals of the marsh.
5. **High-tide bush** My thick, waxy leaves store water, I grow in the higher drier parts of the marsh.
6. **Saltmeadow hay** Farmers once harvested my matted patches to feed cattle but now this is a great resting spot for wild animals.
7. **Saltmarsh cordgrass** Special glands in my leaves get rid of salt. This helps me to be the most successful plant in the salt marsh ecosystem.

