

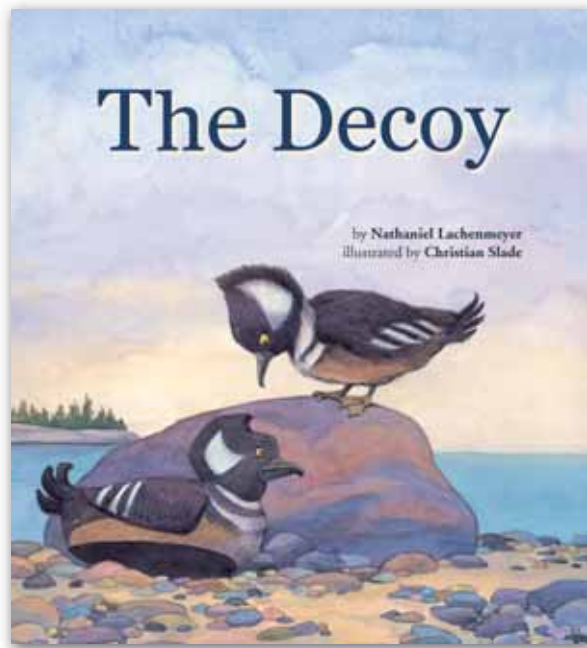
The Decoy



written by NATHANIEL LACHENMEYER illustrated by CHRISTIAN SLADE

Activity Guide

created by EMILY DELONG



CONTENTS

Merganser True or False	2
Make Your Own Decoy	3
Alpha-Birds.....	4
Michigan Geography.....	5-6
A New Ending	7
Merganser Maze.....	8
Matching Munchies	9
Answer Keys.....	10

Merganser True or False



NAME _____

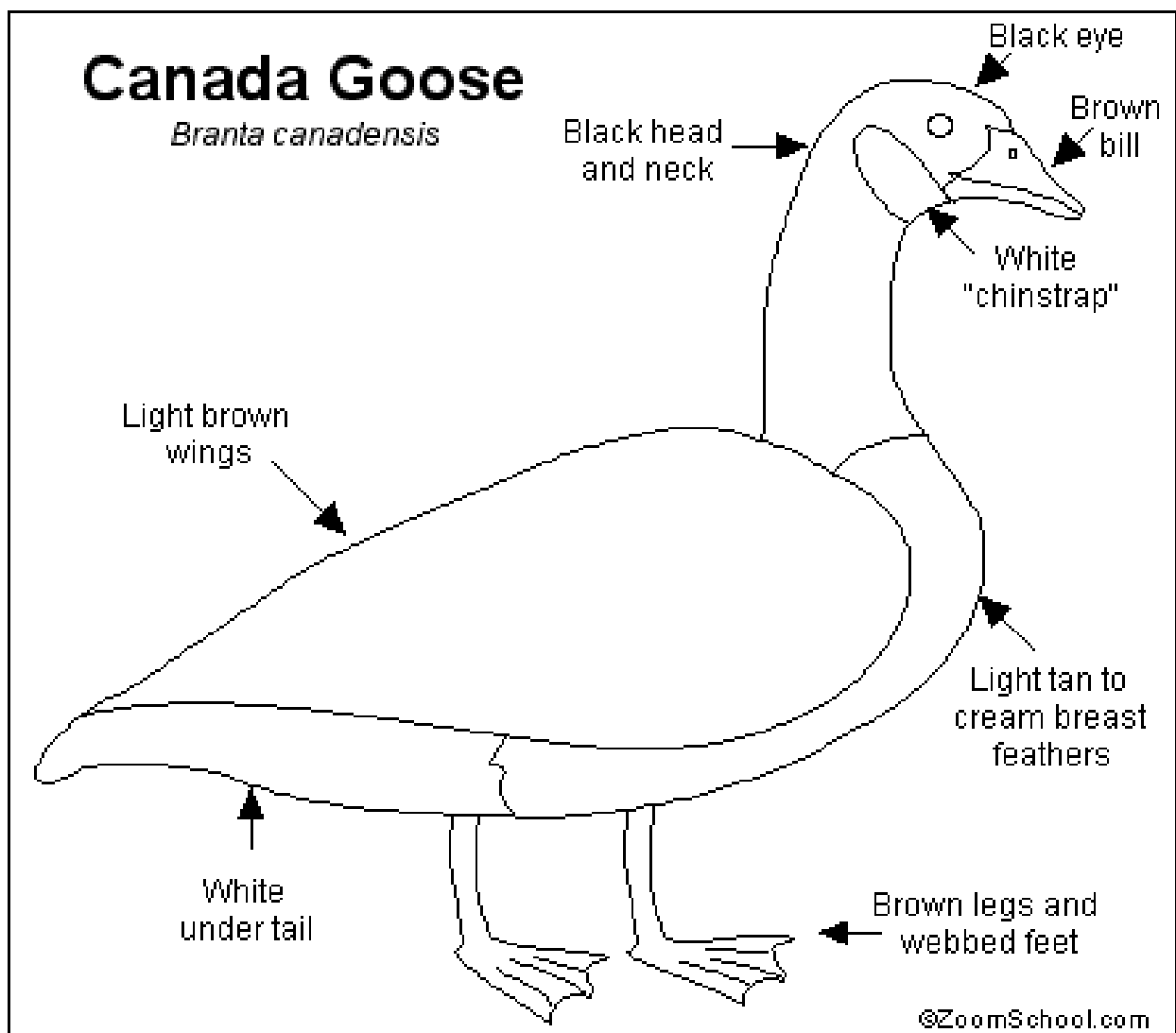
How much do you know about the merganser from the story *The Decoy*? Well, put yourself to the test. Try your best to answer the following questions as either true or false.

1. _____ A typical merganser weighs about 2 pounds.
2. _____ Mergansers migrate to Mexico and Latin America in winter months.
3. _____ Most of the time, the merganser does not make any sound.
4. _____ Mergansers eat only bugs.
5. _____ Mergansers have incredible underwater vision, which helps while hunting its prey.
6. _____ Mergansers live in Michigan and along the east coast year-round.
7. _____ A newborn merganser leaves the nest within one day after hatching.
8. _____ Many people mistake male and female mergansers for various types of ducks.

Make Your Own Decoy



You wouldn't make the same mistake of creating a real merganser like Edison. Instead, follow the diagram below and color in the Canada goose. When you are done, if you want, you can cut it out and paste it to a piece of cardboard. Next, glue the decoy to a yardstick and hammer the stick into the ground. Now you have your very own decoy!



Alpha-Birds



NAME _____

Think of a bird for each letter of the alphabet and write the name in the chart below.

a	n
b	o
c	p
d	q
e	r
f	s
g	t
h	u
i	v
j	w
k	x
l	y
m	z

Michigan Geography



NAME _____

In the story, Edison's lighthouse is on an island in Lake Michigan. There are many other interesting facts about the great state of Michigan. Use the map below to help you answer the questions.



1. What is the capital of Michigan? _____
2. Which of the Great Lakes separates the lower peninsula of Michigan from most of the upper peninsula? _____
3. Which of the Great Lakes forms the northern border of the upper peninsula of Michigan? _____
4. Which of the two Great Lakes form most of the eastern border of the lower peninsula of Michigan? _____ and _____

Michigan Geography continued



5. What U.S. state borders the upper peninsula of Michigan? _____

6. What two U.S. states border the lower peninsula of Michigan? _____

7. What country is just across the water from Michigan? _____

8. What is the name of the large bay on the eastern coast of Michigan (off Lake Huron)?

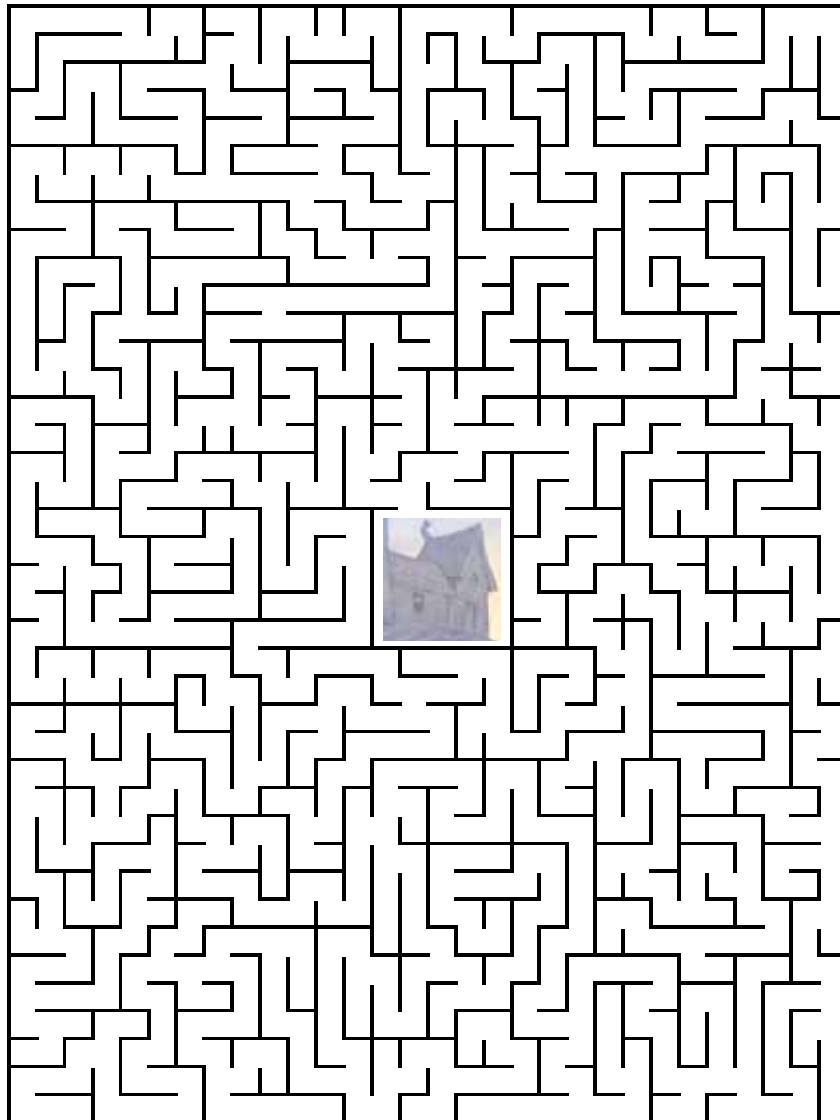
9. The Mackinac Bridge is a 5-mile-long suspension bridge that connects the upper and lower peninsulas of Michigan. Which of the two Great Lakes meet in this area?
_____ and _____

10. Gerald R. Ford, the 38th president of the United States, grew up in Grand Rapids. What river runs near this city? _____

Merganser Maze



Help the merganser family find their way out of Edison's house and to Lake Michigan.



Matching Munchies



NAME _____

A bird's beak shape can tell you what it eats. Look at the bird pictures below and see if you can match the bird to what it eats.



Flamingos

birdseed



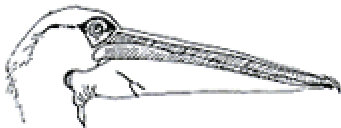
Finches
and
Grosbeaks

water plants and animals



Hummingbirds

nectar



Pelicans

fish and other large water animals



Hawks,
Kites,
and Eagles

mice and other small mammals



mergansers

small fish and crustaceans

Answer Keys



Merganser True or False

1. True; Mergansers are quite small birds.
2. False; Mergansers stay within the United States when migrating.
3. True; the bird only makes sound when mating, and the sound is similar to the croaking sound that a frog makes.
4. False; Mergansers eat small fish and crustaceans.
5. True; the bird actually has the ability to change the refraction of its vision in order to see better underwater.
6. True
7. True
8. True; the bird is often mistaken for other ducks because its looks are very similar.

Michigan Geography

1. Lansing
2. Lake Michigan
3. Lake Superior
4. Lake Huron and Lake Erie
5. Wisconsin
6. Indiana and Ohio
7. Canada
8. Saginaw Bay
9. Lake Michigan and Lake Huron
10. Grand River

Matching Munchies

Flamingos: water plants and animals

Finches: birdseed

Hawks: mice and other small mammals

Merganser: small fish and crustaceans

Hummingbird: nectar

Pelican: fish and other large water animals