

PICK YOUR PATH

Tina the Turkey

A SPECTACLE ISLAND ADVENTURE

Follow the turkey tracks of Tina the Turkey when she leaves her brood to explore the island.

Tina's ready to explore after a long journey from Boston to Spectacle Island. She looks around and is curious about what she will discover. Which way will Tina go?

Saddle Gazebo **A** to learn about the Flora and Fauna of Spectacle Island.

OR

City Lookout **D** to learn about how humans shaped the island.

D City Lookout

Tina looks to her right, sees the Boston skyline, and notices four rock structures sticking out of the water. These are remnants of a pier from Spectacle Island's industrial past. **What do you think the pier could have been used for?**

Tina is surprised to learn that the old pier used to receive big boats of cattle and horses from the city to be processed. Boston also used the island as a dump for almost 60 years. This included operating a trash-burn-ing factory. **What do you think you might have seen, smelled, and heard back then?**

Tina's Fun Fact: The low-lying area connecting the south drumlin to the north drumlin used to be a narrow sandbar know as a 'Tombolo'. Boston's garbage was transported by ship to Spectacle Island from 1902 until 1959, and this area served as the main landfill.

A Saddle

Tina looks left, then right, and notices there are hills on either side of her. She must be on the **Saddle**!

Tina notices that there are so many shades of green on the island. Grasses, shrubs, and trees! **How many shades of green can you count?**

Tina hears some birds chirping. When she takes a closer look, she sees the birds have patches of red on their wings. They must be Red-Winged Blackbirds! **What birds do you see? What do they look like?**

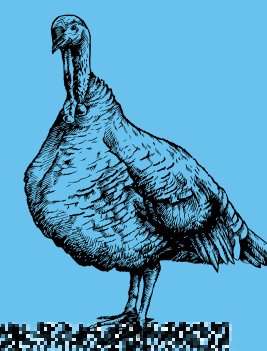


Tina's Fun Fact: Spectacle Island is full of native and non-native species of plants and animals. Native species are domestic to a given region or ecosystem without human interference. A species that is non-native is one introduced by human action, either accidentally, or deliberately. Can you tell which ones are native and non-native to this island?

B Bebb's Willow

Tina feels her belly start to rumble. She's hungry!

What do you think turkeys eat? Can you find anything on the Island she might like?



Oh no! Tina sees some people walking up the path. She scurries off into the brush. The people respect Tina's space and do not follow her or try to feed her. Once they are gone, Tina continues her journey! She's almost at the top of the **Drumlin**! **How do you show respect to wildlife?**

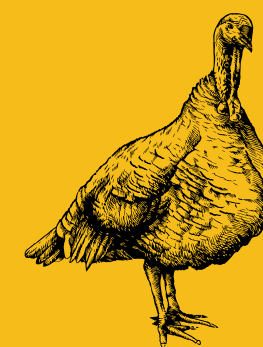
Tina's Fun Fact: Showing respect to wildlife is one of the Leave No Trace Principles: Use minimum impact practices when visiting the outdoors. Scan the code to discover more safety tips for the Boston Harbor Islands.



C North Drumlin

Adventurous Tina finally reaches the highest point of land on Spectacle Island, which is also the highest in Boston Harbor. She takes a good look around for signs of wildlife. The Boston Harbor Islands offer shelter and healthy habitat for marine mammals, fish, birds, and invertebrates. **What wildlife do you see here?**

In the past, the harbor was not always a healthy home for wildlife and was even referred to as the "Harbor of shame." **What do you think happened?**



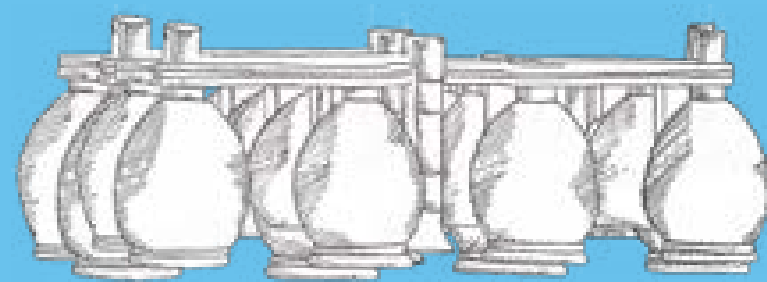
Tina's Fun Fact: Have you heard the term "drumlin" before? A drumlin is a glacial hill formed when the large sheet of ice deposits soft earth, or till, beneath as it moves. The Boston Harbor Islands are part of a drumlin field created 100,000 years ago.

Feeling sleepy, Tina is ready to end her journey and reunite with her turkey friends. She realizes they are enjoying the shade at the **Visitor Center**.

E South Drumlin

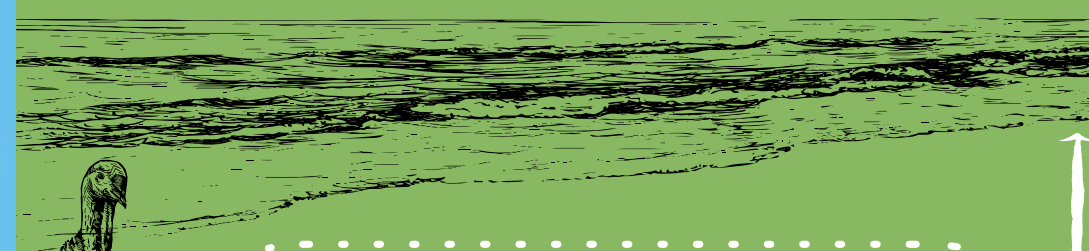
Tina reaches the top and sees islands and peninsulas. What a view! Tina can't believe that beneath her are layers of trash and dirt brought over from Boston. These layers are capped with special plastic to make the beautiful island where she lives now. **How many islands do you see? Do you see the big white egg-looking tanks in the distance?**

Those tanks are Deer Island's wastewater treatment plant. Tina hasn't been there yet, but she's heard that they are one of the reasons the harbor water is so clean. She also heard that artifacts wash up along the shore and wants to see what she can find, so she heads to the South Beach.



F South Beach

Curious Tina walks along the **South Beach** of Spectacle Island. She sees so many things along the **Wrack line**. This is where waves deposit marine debris at high tide, like shells, seaweed, pottery, and sea glass. We can learn a lot about how people previously used Spectacle Island and the harbor by examining what washes up here. Eager to learn more, Tina walks over to investigate. **What can you find? Remember to leave it on the Island for others to discover.**



Tina's Fun Fact: While the wrack line marks high tide, the sandy area between high and low tide is called the "intertidal zone." This habitat is use by animals such as peri-winkles and hermit crabs.

G Visitor Center

Tina reunites with her brood roosting in the trees outside of the **Visitor Center**. She learned a lot on her walk and saw the many ways the island has changed and can now be home to flora and fauna.

For more than 1500 years, human activities altered the island's terrain. In more recent times, humans have tried to undo this impact by creating a public park. As a result, Spectacle Island has been reclaimed by the wildlife and animals that lived here years ago. **How can we continue to respect and steward this biodiverse island into the future? How can we learn from Traditional Knowledge shared between generations of people with ancestral ties to this land?**

Were you able to discover some exciting biodiversity during your visit? Come back soon and use the iNaturalist app to make photo observations and document life around the park!



Spectacle Island

SAFETY

Before you get started, there are a few things you should know to stay safe on Spectacle Island:

- **Stay on marked trails and out of tall grass.**

Spectacle Island is home to many things living in tall grasses that may be tempting to observe. Therefore, make sure you stay out of grass taller than the palm of your hand. It's smart to do a full-body tick check at home!

- **Stay off of, and above, the sea wall.** The wall made of big rocks surrounding the island can be dangerous to walk or sit on. There are lots of exciting observations to be made at safe beach access points!

- **Stay out of fenced areas.** At times, Spectacle Island may have areas surrounded by fencing of some kind - make sure to stay out! Ask park staff if you are unsure of off-limit areas.

- **Respect wildlife and leave no trace.** Don't approach wild animals or pick or eat wild plants. Help preserve the park by leaving nothing behind!

- **Swimming is allowed on life guarded beach only.**

Bebb's Willow



This activity is supported with generous funding from the Massachusetts Environmental Trust and the National Park Service Youth Partnership Program. It was collaboratively developed and created in 2022 by the National Park Service, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation, Boston Harbor Now, and Save the Harbor Save the Bay.

Indigenous Peoples have cared for the harbor and islands for thousands of years and continue to do so today. Their ongoing relationship with the land and water is integral to understanding the expansive history of Spectacle Island. Groups that are known to have direct connections with the Boston Harbor Islands include the Massachusetts Tribe at Ponkapoag; the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe; Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head Aquinnah; Narragansett Indian Tribal Nation, Mohegan Tribe; Penobscot Nation; Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation; Chaubunagungamaug Band of the Nipmuc Nation, Webster/Dudley; Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe; Nipmuc Nation (Hassanamisco Band); Pacasset Wampanoag Tribe; and Seaconke Wampanoag Tribe. We know that the Harbor Islands were primarily used as a seasonal location to fish, farm and hunt thanks to the archaeological research and the oral histories of Indigenous Peoples.

MAP KEY

- A = Saddle
- B = Bebb's Willow
- C = North Drumlin
- D = City Lookout
- E = South Drumlin
- F = South Beach
- G = Visitor Center