



# The Comeback Bird

## INSTRUCTIONS

American Oystercatchers are amazing birds, and in recent years they have been found raising their young on some of the Boston Harbor Islands in the early summer. Until recently, these birds hadn't been seen in Massachusetts, but recently they have made a comeback.

- 1. Species Spotlight!** Follow the link to the Species Spotlight for the [American Oystercatcher](#). Take some time to read through the information.
- 2. Reflect.** What fact about American Oystercatchers did you like most from the Species Spotlight?
- 3. Challenges.** Think about what you just read. What two things happening in the late 1800's made the American Oystercatcher disappear from Massachusetts?
- 4. Protection.** What is the name of the act passed in the year 1918 that helped increase the numbers of American Oystercatchers? What is keeping the population of Oystercatchers low?
- 5. A Comeback.** When did American Oystercatchers start nesting on the Boston Harbor Islands again? How many pairs of Oystercatchers were counted in 2016?

Time: 30 min.-1 hour+

Materials: Pencil, notebook, webpage of the American Oystercatcher Species Spotlight: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/species-spotlight-american-oystercatcher.htm>

- 6. Nests.** How many islands did Oystercatchers nest on in 2015? Is that number more or less than you expected? Bonus question: How many islands and peninsulas are there in the Boston Harbor Islands National and State Park?
- 7. Perseverance.** The American Oystercatcher is a good example of a species that has a lot of perseverance. This means that even though these birds have been faced with habitat loss and other challenges, they continue to survive today. Think about a time you faced an obstacle, but were able to succeed. How did you feel at first? How did you overcome the challenge? Did you need help? Write your story down explaining the steps you took to succeed.
- 8. Give Advice.** Now pretend you have to give advice to a friend or family member who has a challenge in their life. Write down some advice for them about things they can do to overcome their challenge.

## LEARN MORE

Did you enjoy this Species Spotlight? There are so many more Species Spotlights about other plants and animals you can enjoy if you enter "NETN Species Spotlight" into the search bar at <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/Search/Quick>

## QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- What are some qualities or abilities that help you to **succeed** when you face a challenge?
- Can you think of other animals or plants that have shown **perseverance**?

