



Create Your Own Duck Stamp

Background

In the 1930s, the United States government made enormous strides in bird conservation legislation. In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Duck Stamp Act. This act made it a requirement of all waterfowl hunters ages 16 and up to purchase a Federal Duck Stamp each year. The proceeds of Duck Stamp sales (98 cents out of every dollar), goes towards purchasing or leasing wetland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge system. Artists submit their work each year to be selected for the Duck Stamp.

There is also a Junior Duck Stamp program for young artists to submit their artwork for the State Duck Stamp. After winning the state competition, their artwork is submitted to the national Junior Duck Stamp competition. Proceeds from the sale of the Junior Duck Stamp go towards supporting this educational youth art program. To learn more about participating in the Rhode Island Junior Duck Stamp contest, [click here](#).

In Rhode Island, waterfowl hunters are required to purchase both the Federal and State Duck Stamps. In its over 80 year history, the Federal Duck Stamp has contributed \$800 million to habitat conservation across the country, protecting more than 5.7 million acres of wetland habitat! You don't have to be a hunter to purchase a Duck Stamp; many people purchase them as collectors' items, in appreciation for these miniature works of art.

How to

- Explain to students that they are going to create their own duck stamp, and provide some background information about the Duck Stamp program.
- Write the names of Rhode Island's waterfowl species (listed below) on scraps of paper and ask students to pick their species from a basket. For younger students, you could print out small photos of the waterfowl.
- Each student is now assigned a species to research. Ask students to find out the answers to the questions on the Duck Stamp worksheet below. This worksheet is geared towards upper elementary/middle school, but could be scaled for younger students.
- Encourage students to use a bird field guide or online resources for their research. Cornell Lab of Ornithology's [All About Birds online guide](#) is a great place to start.
- After students have finished their research, they will draw their own Duck Stamp on the template provided below.
- Once all students have finished their stamps, ask everyone to share their artwork and what they learned about the species. You could also project photos of each bird and play their calls. Students may be surprised that not all ducks say "Quack!" A gallery walk is another great way for students to share their artwork and what they've learned about their waterfowl species.

Rhode Island Waterfowl Species

Diving Ducks

These are ducks that actively dive and swim to find their food. Many diving duck species are considered “sea ducks,” and spend most of their time in saltwater. Some diving ducks can also be found in freshwater.

- Common eider
- Long-tailed duck
- White-winged scoter
- Black scoter
- Surf scoter
- Hooded merganser
- Common merganser
- Red-breasted merganser
- Harlequin duck
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked duck
- Greater scaup
- Lesser scaup
- Common goldeneye
- Barrow’s goldeneye
- Ruddy duck
- Bufflehead

Geese & Swans

Rhode Island has two common goose species (Canada goose and brant), but can also have some uncommon visitors such as the snow goose or cackling goose. The mute swan is a non-native invasive species introduced from Europe.

- Brant
- Canada goose
- Mute swan
- Snow goose
- Cackling goose

Dabbling Ducks

These are what most people picture when they think of a duck. Dabblers tip their heads down into shallow water with their tails up in the air when foraging for food. They do not actively swim underwater, and can be found in marshes and ponds (freshwater and saltwater).

- Mallard
- American black duck
- Northern pintail
- American wigeon
- Wood duck
- Northern shoveler
- Blue-winged teal
- Green-winged teal



Name: _____

My Duck Stamp

Which species are you drawing?

Where in the world does it live?

What kinds of habitats does it like?

What does it eat?

How does it build its nest?

How many eggs does it lay?

Does it have any predators?

What are some threats to this species? Is it endangered?

Share your favorite fact about this species!

