

SOUNDSIDE LEARNING THIS WEEK ON CORE SOUND

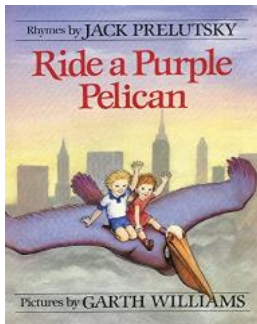


April 22, 2024

COMING UP AT CORE SOUND...

- **April 23-24:** Earth Day 2024 – *registration is full*
- **April 27:** Portsmouth Homecoming @ 8 AM – 5 PM
- **Click Here to [SIGN UP for Summer Camps & for More Upcoming Events!](#)**

Sound Reading Material For You and Your Child



Ride a Purple Pelican

By Jack Prelutsky

It is hard to believe that Cincinnati Patty, Justin Austin, Pennington Poe, and the little pink pig in Arkansas have not been sung about by children for generations. But it is not hard to believe that they will be sung about for generations to come! Jack Prelutsky and Garth Williams have created a nursery world, peopled with unforgettable characters. Come and meet your new, lifelong friends.

Pages: 64

Grades: preK-3

Pelican Locals

I am happy to report that the majestic Eastern Brown Pelican is out and about along our coast! With their distinctive long bills and graceful flight, these seabirds have become an iconic symbol of our area.

These pelicans have unique beaks, distinctive pouches, striking coloration, and enormous wingspans of over 6.5 feet. These gray-brown birds have yellow/cream heads and white necks. In breeding plumage, the back and sides of the neck turn a rich, dark reddish-brown. Immatures have gray-brown heads and necks with pale whitish bellies and breasts.

The Eastern Brown Pelican is a graceful bird to watch in flight. They may be seen gliding over waves at the Cape or plunging headfirst into our surrounding waters from heights up to 60 feet. These spectacular dives are how Brown Pelicans capture their prey of schooling fish such as menhaden. Air sacs in their chests protect Eastern Brown Pelicans from the impact of their crash landings in the water. They can hold two to three times more food and water in their bill pouches than in their stomachs. The pelicans must tilt their heads forward to drain the water out of their pouches before they can swallow their food.

Most Brown Pelicans migrate south for the winter, but small numbers remain here year-round, though severe cold snaps may result in frostbite to their webbed feet and pouches. They can be found nesting in the Cape Fear River and in Pamlico and Bogue Sounds on small islands where they are relatively safe from disruptions and predation.



Eastern Brown Pelican photo from <https://coastalreview.org>

Water Cycle in a Bag



- Get a Ziploc sandwich bag and draw a sun and cloud on it with a marker.
- Fill a small measuring cup with 1/4 cup of water and add a few drops of blue food coloring.
- Pour the colored water into the bag.
- Seal the bag tightly.
- Tape the bag onto a window and wait a few days to observe *evaporation, condensation, and precipitation!*



Pots for Crabs

I have many memories of Daddy coming home from work around 4:30 every afternoon during the week, eating supper that Mama had ready and waiting, changing his clothes, and heading into the bay to fish his crab pots. I thought he was so lucky to go out in the boat every evening; I simply did not understand that Daddy worked two jobs! As a young girl, those crab pots were interesting contraptions to me. Allow me to take you on a brief tour of the pots of which I speak .

A crab pot is a cage-like apparatus used to trap crabs, typically blue crabs in our area. (Next week I'll share how Mama would cook a mess of them for our family, our favorite kind of meal!) The pot is square and made of metal mesh that resembles chicken wire. One measures about 2 feet wide, 2 feet deep and 18 inches high. The mesh is now coated with yellow, green, red, or white plastic to help protect it from the elements.

A crab pot is divided into upper and lower sections. A cylindrical bait basket sits in the middle of the lower section. Funnel-like openings on each side allow crabs to enter to get near the bait but prove difficult for the crabs to exit. Small holes, called cull rings, in the sides of the upper section allow smaller crabs to escape. Bait can be almost any type of meat such as fish, chicken, or meat carcasses. Daddy used stinky fish! Oh, how I remember that!

Daddy worked many evenings preparing his pots each year. He tied a rope and float to the top of each one and attached a weight to the bottom to keep it submerged--if a pot is exposed to the sun, crabs quickly dehydrate and die. Dad "set" his pots by dropping them overboard off the side of his boat. He marked each float with his name and boat registration number to identify them as his.

To get crabs out of each pot, Dad pulled up and rested the pot on the side of his boat, unhooked a latch on one side of the top, turned it upside down and shook the crabs into a wooden fish box. He then refreshed the bait and reset the pot. Then he returned the next evening to do it all again.



crab pot photo from <https://nicecarset.xyz>