Project GreenShores is a habitat restoration project that involves the restoration and creation of oyster reefs, seagrass beds, saltmarsh habitat, and shoreline buffer for the Pensacola Bay System. The oyster reefs that have recently been constructed will serve as habitat, protect the newly created marsh from erosion and will be utilized for their water filtering capabilities and valuable fish habitat in Pensacola Bay. The intertidal area (submerged at high tide, but exposed at low tide) behind the oyster reefs has been transformed into a salt marsh, one of the most productive ecosystems on earth. This area will serve as a nursery for numerous species of fishes, shellfish and crustaceans as well as provide shelter for insects and microscopic organisms. The dominant emergent plant you will see at the site is smooth cord grass (*Spartina alterniflora*), which is responsible for much of the marsh's productivity. Seagrasses are flowering plants that live underwater and have many important functions including using their leaves to maintain water clarity, providing stabilization with their roots and rhizomes and providing food for marine animals.

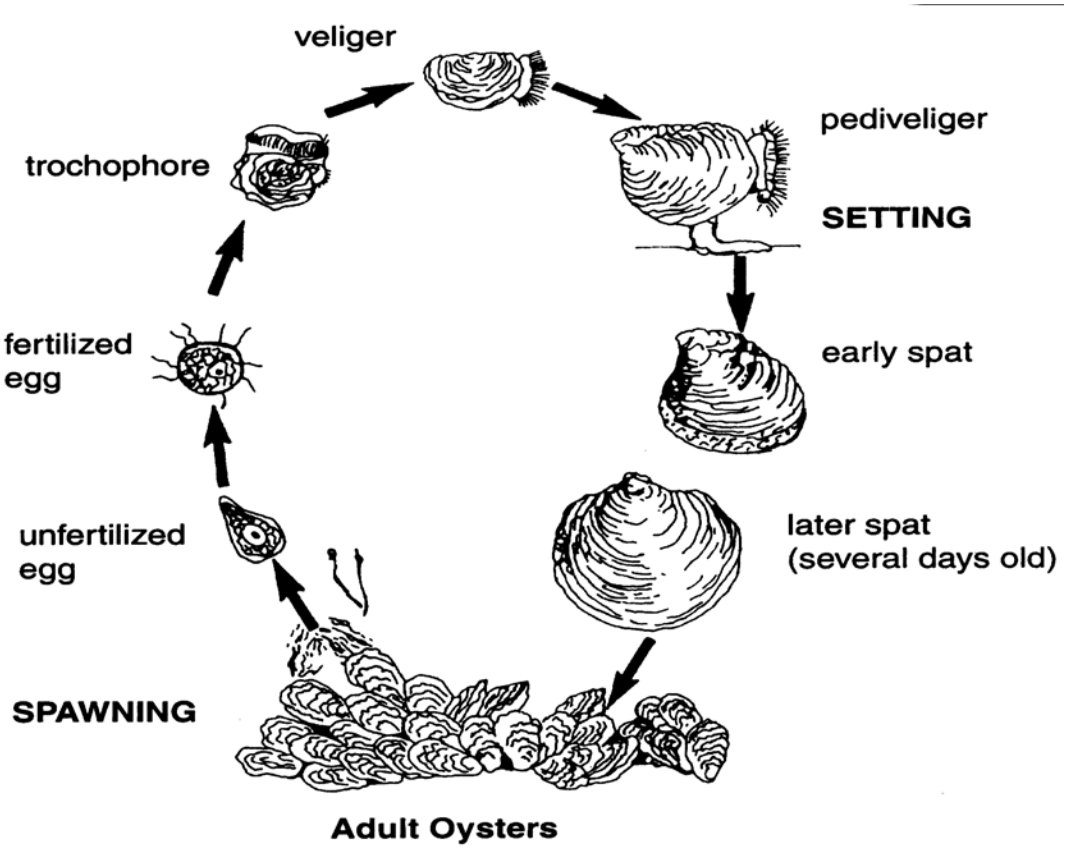


Figure 1. Life cycle of the eastern oyster, Crassostrea virginica.

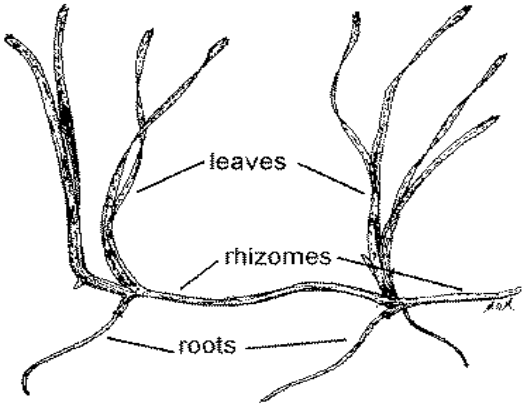
Unscramble the words, then use the underlined and bold letters to answer the next question

tsla rhsam ny**u**rs**e**r tt**a**bhia **d**rs**i**b **c**ne**o**svnira**n**t

___ ____ _____ _____ ____ _____

What is the number one way to help protect the future of the environment? (Why you also go to school)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _



Shoal-grass *(Halodule wrightii)*

Silver perch (*Bairdiella chrysoura*) finding shelter in a sea grass bed. (South Carolina DNR)

Look for the following birds at Project GreenShores

Brown Pelican
Pelecanus occidentalis

Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodis

Snowy Egrets
Egretta thula