



1-888-993-BLUE (2583)

5637 Hwy 411 S, Benton, TN 37307

Dear Educators,

Come aboard and enjoy a unique learning experience. Arriving in Chattanooga in January 2007, the Blue Moon is a double decked cruiser offering eco-tours on the Tennessee River and is an ideal place to provide students with opportunities for enhancement of new concepts or to demonstrate their knowledge of a specific skill.

If you want to augment a social studies lesson, heighten awareness of a science concept, or reward your students' hard work with a fun trip, we will customize each tour to suit your educational needs. Certified by the Coast Guard, our cruise offers a knowledgeable crew with extensive experience in presenting educational material to youth groups in fun and exciting ways. We guarantee all activities will be aligned to your state's curriculum, will challenge your students to think critically, and will allow your students to demonstrate what they have learned.

We run tours Monday through Friday and each trip lasts 2 ½ hours. You can choose to bring lunch onboard in our large climate controlled area or eat at a nearby park along the waterfront. We will cruise through the Tennessee River Gorge until late-December then move to the Hiwassee Island Wildlife Refuge to welcome back the migrating Sandhill Cranes during the months of January and February. From March until the end of the school year we will move back to City Pier in downtown Chattanooga for the Gorge tour.

The educational crew who will join each excursion is Captain Dave Anderson, Rick Houlk, and Candyce Bates. Captain Dave has been leading tours along the banks of the Tennessee River for over a decade. He is an expert seaman and local historian who enjoys sharing stories of Native American folklore. Rick has managed a successful whitewater rafting company for over twenty years and is our naturalist. His dedication to studying wildlife locally for the Forest Service, his conservation practices and education have awarded him recognition from the Cherokee National Forest. Candyce taught fourth and fifth graders in Georgia for five years. She has also worked as an SCA volunteer in Shenandoah National Park, has attended several environmental education workshops, and is currently pursuing her Master's of Education degree.

The mission of the Blue Moon Cruises Education Department is to create awareness in both students and the public of the importance our river systems play in the environment, conservation, and our history.

Please feel free to contact us for a detailed educator's packet or you can download one from our website at www.bluemooncruises.org.

We look forward to seeing you on the river!

The Crew of Blue Moon Cruises

www.BlueMoonCruises.org

If they say the mone is blewe • We must believe that it is true.

'Rede Me and Be Not Wrath' - 1528, author unknown

Blue Moon Cruises Bird-venger Hunt

Great Blue Heron



As the Great Heron flies, I look with my eyes, to see that its neck gets tucked in for the trek.

Sighted
Where _____
When _____

Black Vulture



Rarely will you see a lone Black Vulture in a tree. Have you heard? They are a social bird!

Spotted
Where _____
When _____

Turkey Vulture



A strong sense of smell will help this bird tell where its next meal will come from. What a deal!

Spied
Where _____
When _____

Canada Goose



On the highest of mountain tops or down by the sea, a Canada Goose is on the loose!

Scouted
Where _____
When _____

Mallard Duck



Male and female so differently dressed. He is green headed with a rusty chest, while she flaunts around town wearing mostly brown!

Located
Where _____
When _____

Osprey



A nest you will see not high in a tree, but rather on top of a telephone pole while out for a stroll.

Gazed upon
Where _____
When _____

Bald Eagle



Thank you, oh, thank you restoration acts! You have helped bring this exceptional bird back. From extinction you once were, to replenished you transfer!

Marveled at
Where _____
When _____

Red Tailed Hawk



This bird's aggressors better watch out! Not for the male but female no doubt. She is actually the larger of the two and will do what it takes to protect her mate!

Spectator of
Where _____
When _____

More Birds ...

Wild Turkey



Benjamin Franklin had declared, the Wild Turkey should be spared, from living a life of anonymity and become our nation's emblem with unanimity!

Watched

Where _____

When _____

Belted Kingfisher



As in most cases, the male bird embraces more color than the female. However, the Belted Kingfisher begs to differ, as she is more colorful than he. Just look at their chest, and you'll see that her breast is belted in rust!

Witnessed

Where _____

When _____

American Crow



Did you know the roost of a crow is very large indeed? Imagine how loud it would be to hear the "caw" of 2 million crows in Tennessee!

Observed

Where _____

When _____

Eastern Bluebird



A delightful sight, a male bustling in flight. In and out of the nest he goes because he knows that his actions will gain the attraction of the female of his liking!

Had Seen

Where _____

When _____

Northern Cardinal



Popularity reigns with the Cardinal! Have you heard? Seven states claim this bird. To name them all would be a ball, so here goes...Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Saw

Where _____

When _____

Sandhill Crane



Happiness, wisdom, longevity, and patience are synonymous with the crane. So explore the shores of the great outdoors for this lucky symbolic bird.

Noticed

Where _____

When _____

Whooping Crane



While cruising on the Blue Moon keep your senses attune. For you might be fortunate enough to see the tallest and one of the rarest birds in North America.

In awe of

Where _____

When _____

Northern Mockingbird

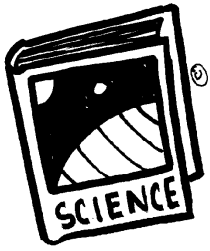


With a repertoire of over 200 songs this bird definitely belongs on the stage of American Idol!

Focused in

Where _____

When _____



Blue Moon Sample Activities



Here is a short list of some of the activities that can be done on our boat. Our lessons can be aligned to suit your educational needs. Also, if you have an idea of a fun activity you'd like done, please let us know—we are accommodating!

Design an Animal

What a great way to help teach the concept of adaptations! Each student will receive a picture of an animal. They will also be assigned a body part to alter: legs, wings, covering, mouth, or eyes. The students will use the picture as a model and change only the assigned body part. They can do this by tracing the unchanged part of the animal on a fresh sheet of paper and drawing the new body part on that sheet. Creativity is strongly encouraged—they may change the color, size, shape or covering pattern.

When the altered animal pictures are complete, the students will be asked to identify any new behaviors or capabilities their newly invented animals will possess and to explain the form and function of the new feature. The students will name their new creature then share it with the rest of the group. As a group we will discuss whether the new animal's habitat, diet, or range would differ from that of the original. We can also make turn it into a competition and vote on the best new creature—the winner can become Captain of the Blue Moon and drive the boat for a ways!

Looking for Field Marks (Audubon Adventure Activity)

Students will practice their observation and recording skills by looking for field marks that will help them identify specific bird species. On the boat we will discuss field marks—a marking, color, shape, or other physical feature that helps to identify a bird. We will then peruse field guides (book of birds) and have students identify field marks of birds shown in pictures. Once the students have a good understanding of how to locate field marks of birds we will put them to the test! They will work with a partner and use binoculars to begin their identification journey. We have trained naturalists and ornithologists aboard who would be glad to help the students on their birding adventure!

Constructing a Dichotomous Key

Believe it or not, your students' shoes can help them learn to classify animals the way scientists and naturalists do! Volunteers will be asked to put one of their shoes in a pile. Students will be asked to divide this pile of shoes into two other piles. They don't have to be equal in number, but they all have to agree on some obvious characteristic that will distinguish the shoes in one pile from the shoes in the other pile. The instructor will keep a record of how each pile of shoes is classified. The students will continue to divide each pile of shoes and keep a record of how they classified their divisions. The instructor will then introduce the concept of a dichotomous key explaining that the word means "two forks". Dichotomous keys can appear in a more compact form and that the diagram can be easily converted by adding numbers to each characteristic used. The instructor will label the diagram in a numerical sequence following the same order the characteristics were agreed upon. The volunteers will then redeem their shoes then place it on the correct branch of the dichotomous key which will lead to its correct identification.