



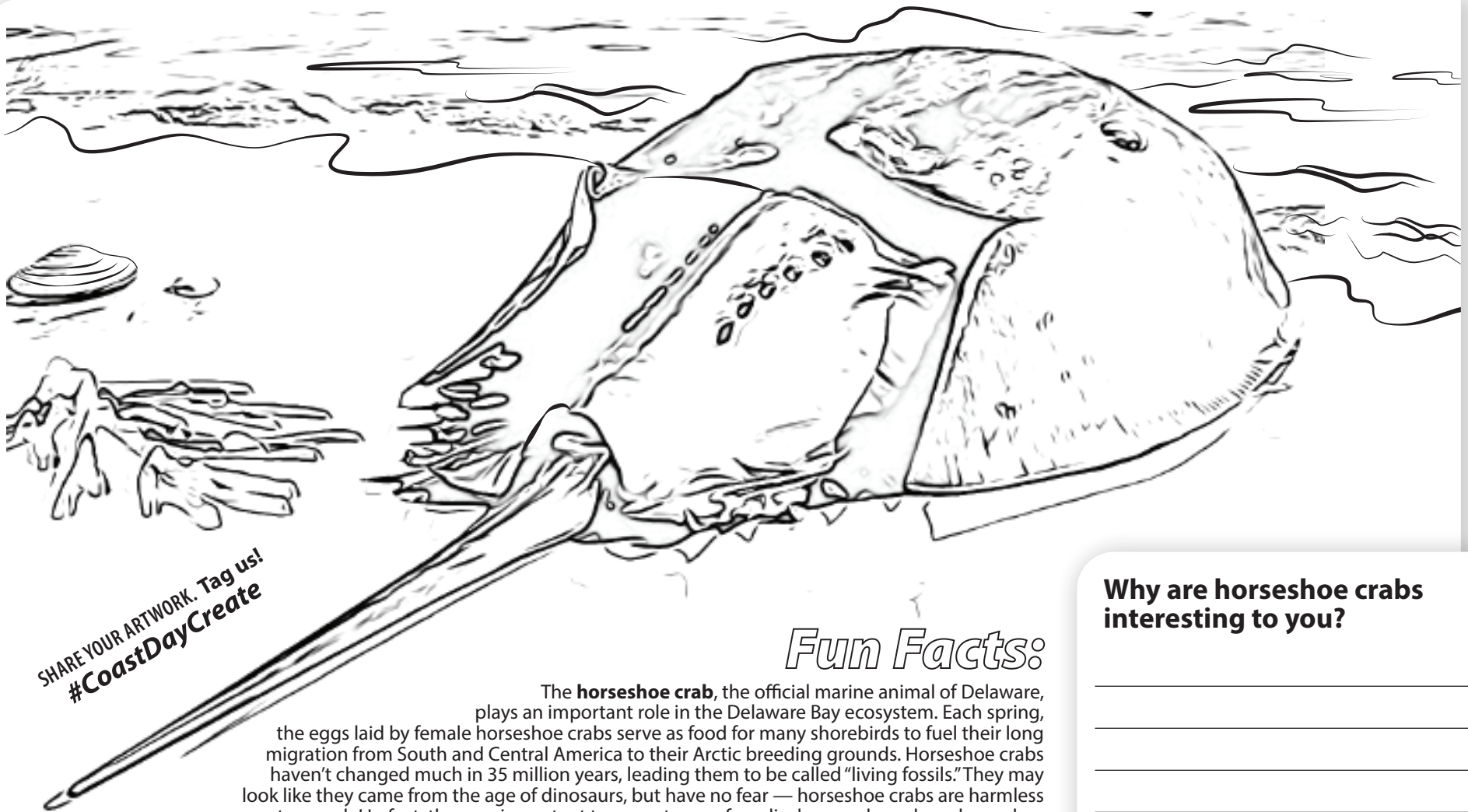
Horseshoe Crab

SCIENTIFIC NAME:

Limulus polyphemus

Size: Females up to 20 inches (51 centimeters), males up to 16 inches (41 centimeters) long (including tail).

Range: Atlantic coast from southern Maine to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.



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Fun Facts:

The **horseshoe crab**, the official marine animal of Delaware, plays an important role in the Delaware Bay ecosystem. Each spring, the eggs laid by female horseshoe crabs serve as food for many shorebirds to fuel their long migration from South and Central America to their Arctic breeding grounds. Horseshoe crabs haven't changed much in 35 million years, leading them to be called "living fossils." They may look like they came from the age of dinosaurs, but have no fear — horseshoe crabs are harmless to people! In fact, they are important to many types of medical research, and we depend on their unique blue, copper-based blood for important tests that ensure our medications are safe.

Why are horseshoe crabs interesting to you?

Coloring by _____