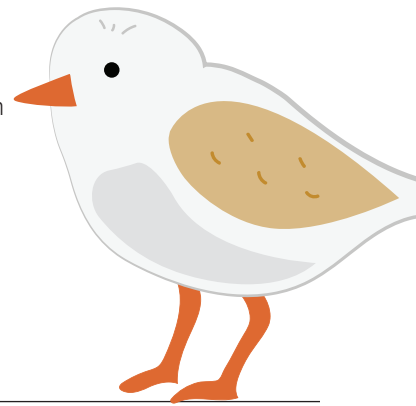


Believe it or not, piping plovers are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

### Did you know?

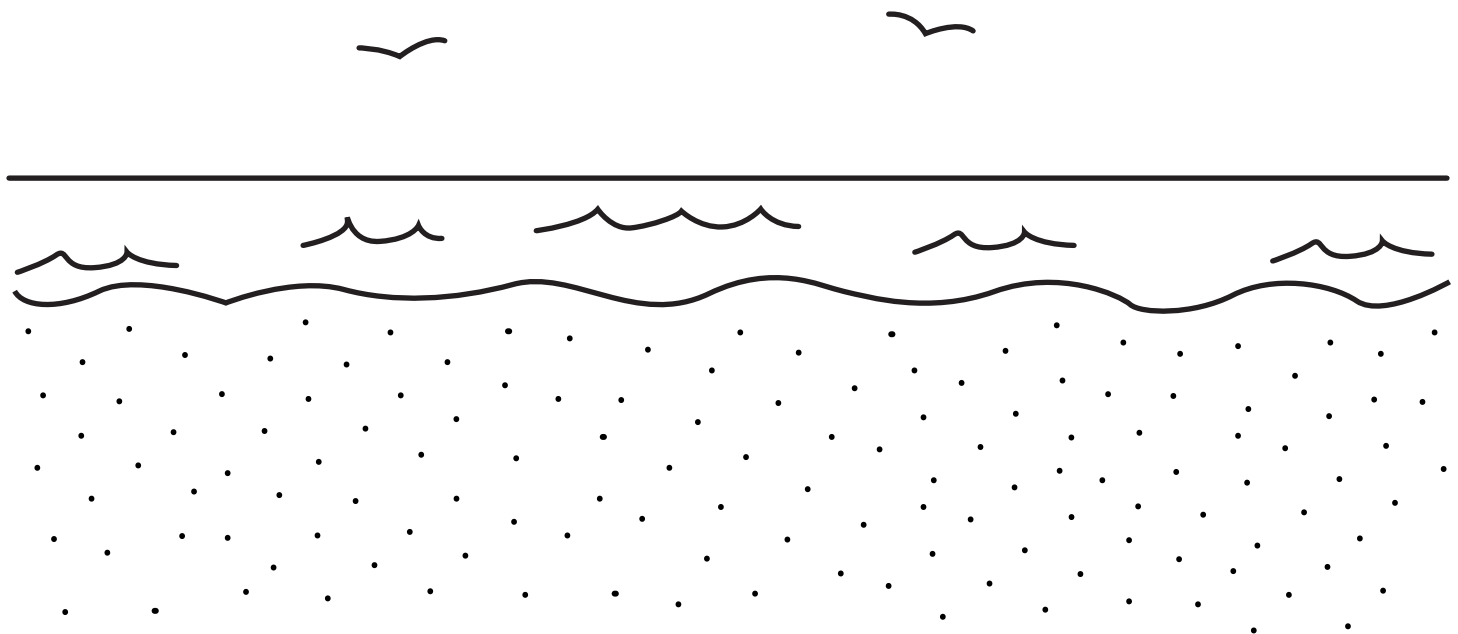
- Piping plovers are small birds. Adults weigh less than a small apple.
- Piping plovers nest along NYC beaches during the spring and summer. During the fall, they fly down to the Gulf of Mexico to enjoy warmer weather.
- The piping plover is listed as an endangered species in New York State, and listed as threatened across the United States.
- Piping plovers use their short beaks to eat food they find on the surface of the sand or in seaweed that has washed ashore. They eat small critters like worms, insects, and small shellfish.
- If you see a piping plover, don't get too close. You may scare it away, leaving its nest or young unprotected.

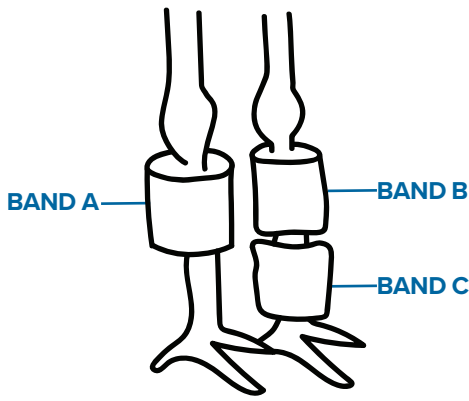


### FREE DRAW

Do you like going to the beach in New York City? Piping plovers do. Each spring they arrive to lay eggs and raise young. Plovers and their homes are hard to see—they lay their eggs in the sand, which means they can blend in easily with the beach. Do your part to share the beach with the piping plover and other shorebirds. Stay out of closed areas and take your trash home with you.

**Think about how you might share the beach with piping plovers the next time you visit. Draw yourself playing in a way that can help keep plovers safe.**





## BIRD BANDING

Scientists place bands on bird legs to study where they move. The colors and numbers are different for each bird. If you find a banded bird, take notes on colors or numbers you see. You can find websites online to send the information to. When you report a band, you learn where the bird was banded and where it has been seen.

**Color the bands on this piping plover following the code given below.**

### BAND A:

Write down the year you were born:

\_\_\_\_\_

Is it an even number?

**If YES, color Band A red.**

**If NO, color Band A green.**

### BAND B:

Look at only the last number of your birth year above.

Is it a number between 0 and 4?

**If YES, color Band B yellow.**

**If NO, color Band B blue.**

### BAND C:

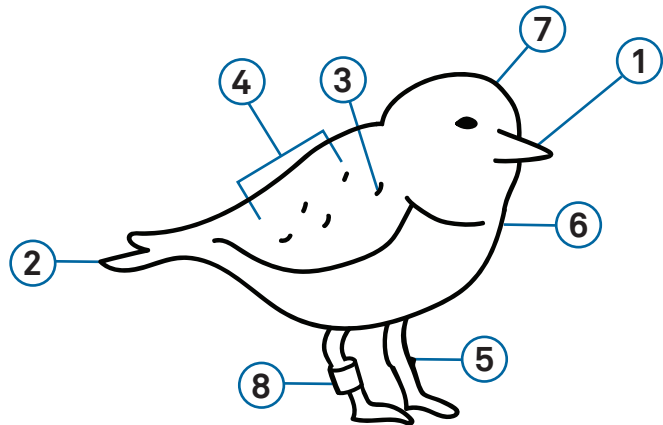
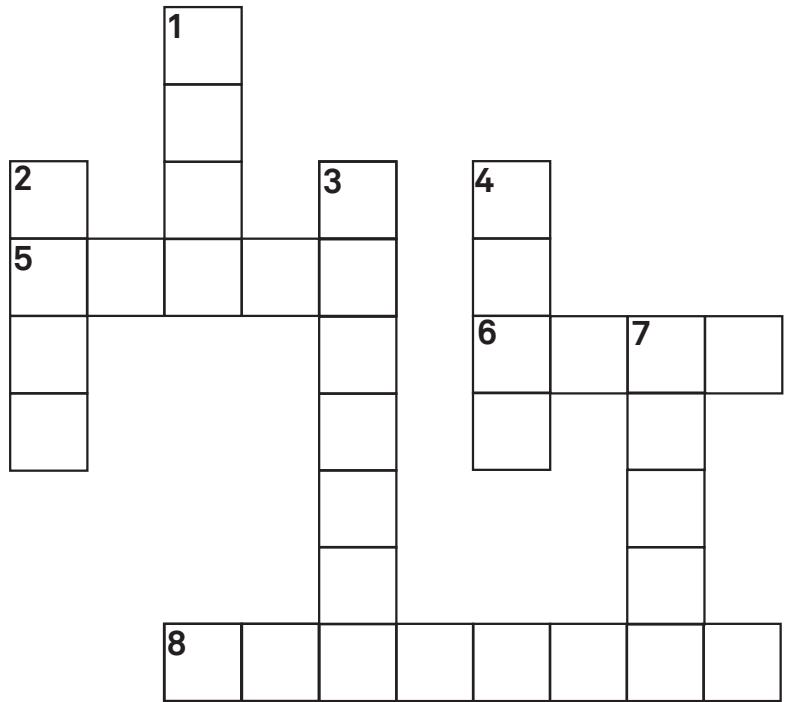
Was the bird born at Rockaway Beach?

**If YES, color Band C purple.**

**If NO, color Band C orange**

## WILD CROSSWORD

Fill out the puzzle by labeling each body part.



### WORD BANK

Tail

Beak

Feather

Wing

Crown

Ankle

Neck

Birdband