

# Kids Explore!

## Get to Know...Great Blue Herons

### Fun Facts

**Color:** bluish-grey

**Body:** long neck, dagger-like bill, stilt-like legs

**Height:** about three feet

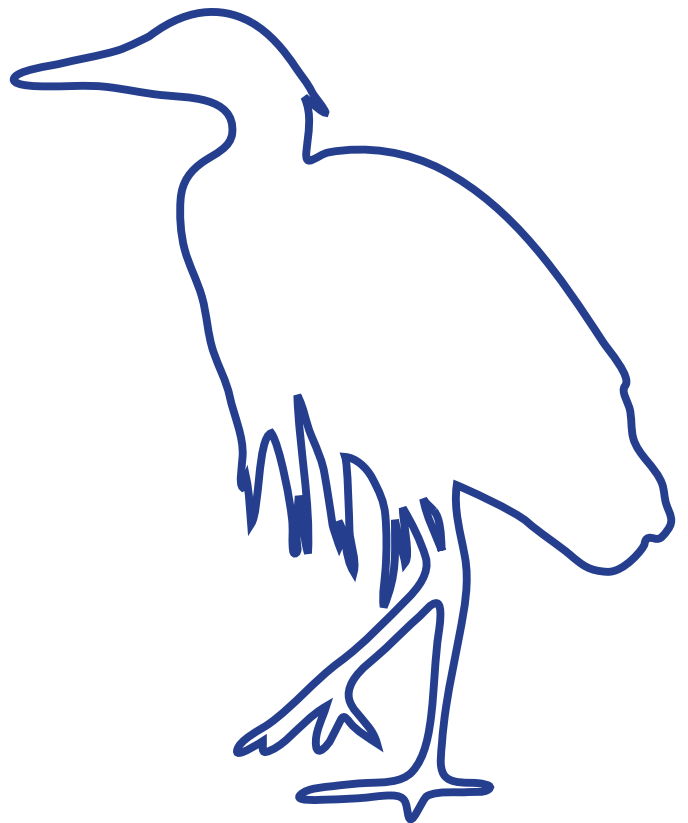
**Diet:** mainly fish, but also amphibians, insects, and even small birds and mammals

**Flight pattern:** looks like a pterodactyl in flight

**Mating habits:** Pairs form long-term bonds, but only spend time together when nesting

**Nesting:** birds return to their nests in February, lay two to five eggs in March, hatch chicks about a month later, and feed babies together for another couple months

**Where to find them:** all year long in the shallows of rivers and streams, and in the spring, in large flat nests of interwoven sticks, high in trees near waterways



*Can you decorate this great blue heron and then draw a picture of where it lives or looks for food? When you're finished, go on a walk in nature and see if you can find a live great blue heron!*