

An aerial illustration of a large, multi-decked learning barge on a river. The barge has a grey roof, a glass-enclosed cabin, and various outdoor spaces. One deck features a yellow basketball court with a person playing. Another deck has a row of blue solar panels. There are also raised garden beds with green plants and a person tending to them. A person in a yellow life vest is on the deck near a net. A wooden pier with several posts extends from the left bank, where a group of people is gathered. The background shows a stylized map of a river system in shades of blue and white, with a bird flying in the sky.

PRE & POST ACTIVITIES

**THE ELIZABETH RIVER PROJECT
LEARNING BARGE**

RIVER ART~ BROWN PELICAN

The Elizabeth River Project's mascot is the Brown pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis*, the smallest of the eight species of pelican, although still a large bird. It can weigh up to 12 pounds, has a wingspan up to 8 feet and relies on over 150 pounds of fish to eat over a ten month period. The pelican dives from the air for fish and often flies single file slowly over the surface of the water. This majestic bird is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and healthy pelicans can live more than 30 years.

The pelican represents rebirth of the river. Pesticides like DDT made the shells of the eggs too thin, leading to banning the pesticide throughout the country. Today, pelican can now be seen in the Elizabeth River watershed and continue to be a reminder of hope for the river's restoration.

