

An aerial illustration of a large, multi-decked learning barge on a river. The barge has a grey roof, a yellow deck, and a green deck. It features a covered walkway, a small court, a rowing station, and various educational displays. A wooden pier is on the left, and a bird is flying in the sky. The background shows a stylized map of the Elizabeth River area.

**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.

