

Welcome to the Chula Vista Nature Center

WERGELAND FAMILY DISCOVERY CENTER

Turtle Lagoon

1. How long can Eastern Pacific Green Sea Turtles live?
2. When do they start reproducing?
3. Although protected internationally, why are sea turtles still threatened?
4. Why are Green Sea Turtles endangered?
5. Why do Green Sea Turtles come and stay in San Diego Bay?

The Bay

1. Name three kinds of fishes that swim in schools.
2. What fish sensory organ allows them to school?
3. What does the Bay's food web consist of?
4. What animals use jetties and breakwaters for homes?
5. How can people keep the bay clean and healthy?
6. How much of Moon Jellies is water?

Chula Vista's Fossil Bay

1. Three million years ago what area were covered by the large fossil bay?
2. List 5 kinds of animals that lived in the fossil bay.
3. How many fossil species have been found.
4. Where do walrus live today?
5. How many marine invertebrates that lived 3 million years ago still survive today?

2/9/10

Revised 6/06

Complete Scavenger Hunt

6. In what community of Chula Vista were the fossil scallops found?

The Marsh

1. What animals eat the rotting blades of eelgrass?
2. What animals take advantage of low tides?
3. Why are Light-footed Clapper Rails endangered?
4. What three plants are adapted to salt water?

The Uplands

1. Name three kinds of animals that live the upland habitats.
2. When birds migrate along the Pacific Flyway, where do they go?
3. What kind of water do Rainbow Trout live in?
4. When was the Sweetwater River dammed?
5. How many people currently reside in the Sweetwater River Watershed?

Shark & Ray Experience *(Start near the petting tank and go to the right to find the answers for these questions.)*

1. Name three animals that live in the Shark & Ray Experience.
2. Do all of these animals live in San Diego Bay?
3. What is the shape of most sharks' teeth?
4. What is the shape of most rays' teeth?
5. Why are fossil shark teeth abundant?
6. Where does the oxygen sharks and rays need to breathe come from?

2/9/10

Revised 6/06

Complete Scavenger Hunt

7. What is the name of the opening on the top of the head of rays and guitarfish that carry water to the animals' gills?
8. Are storm drains sanitary sewers?
9. What great migratory path is San Diego Bay on?
10. Which county has more species of endangered plants and animals than any other county in the United States?
11. What are the leathery eggs laid by some sharks and rays called?
12. How many pups can a female shark or ray produce during her lifetime?
13. How many offspring can a bony fish produce in her lifetime?
14. What can deplete shark populations?
15. Describe how the skin of sharks and the skin of rays feel.
16. Name all the senses sharks use to be successful predators.
17. What are the skeletons of sharks and rays made of?
18. Why are fossil skeletons of sharks and ray unusual?
19. What kind of camouflage do most sharks and rays wear?

2/9/10

Revised 6/06

Complete Scavenger Hunt

(Now go to the deck on your left. Look at the Sweetwater Marsh before you answer the questions.)

Lower Observation Deck

1. When is the time capsule going to be opened?
2. What are the four refuges that comprise the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex?
3. What birds are wading birds?
4. What birds are surface feeders?
5. Name 6 shoreline birds.

(Now walk down the ramp for your next questions.)

Verdi, the Green Iguana

1. What are Verdi's special requirements?
2. Verdi is native to what part of the world?

Clapper Sound Booth

1. Why do Light-footed Clapper Rails vocalize?

Burrowing Owl

1. Why would a Burrowing Owl imitate a rattlesnake?
2. Where does a Burrowing Owl nest?

2/9/10

Revised 6/06

Complete Scavenger Hunt

(Now go to the boardwalk and look at the tidal slough.)

Walk-through Aviary

1. Which bird is featured in this exhibit?
2. Why is this bird endangered?
3. What kinds of things does this bird eat? *(Hint: Look at the dinner plates.)*
4. What bird is thought to be extinct in San Diego County?
5. Why is the Coyote a friend of Clapper Rails?

(Now go to your left and to the end of the walkway.)

Eagle Mesa and Raptor Row

1. What is a Raptor?
2. What are the three common traits Raptors share?
3. Why are Raptors important?
4. Name three birds of prey you can see in the enclosures.
5. What senses are birds' brains devoted to?
6. What do Raptors use their strong toes and sharp talons for?
7. What is the center front talon like and what is it used for?
8. How many pounds of pressure per square inch and eagle toes exert?

2/9/10

Revised 6/06

Complete Scavenger Hunt

9. How is Raptor vision better than ours?
10. Which bird is the national bird of the United States?
11. Which bird is the national bird of Mexico?
12. Where do Short-eared Owls roost and rest?
13. Can owls find and catch their food without seeing it?
14. Why do Turkey Vultures have a feather-less head?
15. Why do owls move their heads in order to see better?
16. Why does the Nature Center have its birds.
17. How fast do Peregrine Falcons fly?
18. How did the pesticide DDT affect the eggs of Peregrine Falcons?
19. Do Harriers fly high or low?
20. What can be dangerous for Red-shouldered Hawks?
21. What do Ospreys like to eat?
22. Which hawk is the most common in the United States?

2/9/10

Revised 6/06

Complete Scavenger Hunt

(Now continue straight ahead to the Composting Garden.)

Composting Garden

1. What does composting save?
2. What is "grasscycling"?
3. What are natural alternatives to pesticides and fertilizers?
4. Name 3 things compost improves?
5. What are 3 important residents of the compost pile?
6. What kinds of things are suitable for composting?

(Now go up ramp to Upper Overlook)

Upper Overlook

1. What did the native people use the plants and animals of Sweetwater Marsh for?
2. How many people worked for the Hercules Powder Company?
3. When was the marsh and upland designated as a national wildlife refuge?

2/9/10

Revised 6/06

Complete Scavenger Hunt