

Advanced Scavenger Hunt Answer Key



The Bay

1. Find a shark that hunts at night. *Horn Shark, Swell Shark*
2. Find the large, bright orange fish (the state marine fish of California.) Write its name here: Garibaldi
3. How long can a spiny lobster live? *Up to 30 years*
4. How many eels can you find? *Answer based on current number of eels on exhibit*
5. How much of a moon jelly's body is made of water? *97%*

The Marsh

1. Find a fish with venomous spines. *California Scorpionfish*
2. What can an octopus do to help it camouflage? *Change color, shape, and even texture*

The Uplands

1. Name three animals at the Nature Center that live in the upland habitats. *Any animal currently on exhibit in the upland area*
2. Find an 8-legged animal that lives in the uplands. Desert Tarantula
3. When birds migrate along the Pacific Flyway, where do they go? *South America*
4. How many people currently live in the Sweetwater River Watershed? Are you one of them? *300,000 people*

Shark & Ray Experience

1. What is the shape of most rays' teeth? *Flat, molar-like teeth for grinding shellfish*
2. What is the name of the opening on the top of the head of rays and guitarfish that carry water to their gills? *Spiracles*
3. Which county in the U.S. has more species of endangered plants and animals than any other county? *San Diego County*
4. How many pups can a female shark or ray produce during her lifetime? What about a bony fish? *200; millions*
5. Observe the sharks as they swim; do they move their caudal fin (tail) **side to side** or up and down to swim?

Chula Vista's Fossil Bay

1. Three million years ago what areas were covered by the large fossil bay? *Tijuana, Chula Vista, San Diego*
2. How many fossil species have been found there? *470*
3. How many marine invertebrates that lived 3 million years ago still live today? *90%*

Marsh Observation Deck

1. What are the five refuges that comprise the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge Complex? *Tijuana Slough NWR, Sweetwater NWR, South San Diego Bay NWR, Otay/Sweetwater NWR, Seal Beach NWR*

Burrowing Owl Exhibit

1. Why would a burrowing owl imitate a rattlesnake? *Defensive hiss to keep predators from entering their den*

Shorebird Enclosure

1. How many different shorebirds can you spot within the large aviary? See if you can name one! *Black crowned night heron, great egret, snowy egret, black oyster catcher, re-breasted merganser, white-faced ibis, gadwall, cinnamon teal, mallard hooded, merganser, North American ruddy duck, light-footed clapper rail*

2. What does a clapper rail eat? (Hint: Look at the dinner plates.) *Olive ear snail, insects, crabs, snails, cordgrass seeds*

Outside Aviary

1. What bird is thought to be extinct in San Diego County? *The Black Rail*

2. Why is the coyote a “friend” of clapper rails? *Coyotes eat small mammalian predators (red foxes, rats, red tailed hawks) which eat rails, their eggs, and destroy their nests.*

Eagle Mesa and Raptor Row

1. What are the three things all raptors have in common? *Strong toes and sharp talons, hooked beaks for tearing flesh, and excellent binocular vision*

2. Why are raptors important? *They help maintain balance in nature by controlling rodent, reptile, and insect population*

3. How many pounds of pressure per square inch can an eagle’s toes squeeze? *200 pounds of pressure per sq. inch*

4. How is raptor vision better than ours? *8x more powerful than human vision*

5. Why do owls move their heads in order to look from side to side?

6. Which hawk is the most common in the United States? *Red-tailed Hawk*

Turtle Lagoon

1. How long can Eastern Pacific green sea turtles live? *80 years +*

2. Count how many seconds one holds its breath and write it here: *Subject to change*

3. What do they use their flippers for? *To swim and females use to come onshore during nesting*

4. Sea turtles are endangered- True or False? *True*

Composting Garden

1. What does composting save? *Landfill space*

2. What kinds of things can you compost? *Organic matters, lawn clippings, see board for details*

Bay Observation Deck

1. How did the native people use the plants and animals of Sweetwater Marsh? *Food, medicine, dyes, and materials*
2. When was the marsh and upland designated as a national wildlife refuge? *1988*
3. Name one living thing you can see from the Observation Deck? *Possible answers: birds, squirrels, rabbits or plants*
4. What is your favorite animal at the Nature Center?