

Lower Grade Scavenger Hunt

Start inside the Galleria!

The Bay

1. Find a shark that hunts at night.
2. Find the large, bright orange fish (the state marine fish of California!) Write its name here: _____
3. How many eels can you find?
4. How much of a moon jelly's body is made of water?

The Marsh

1. Find a fish with venomous spines.
2. What can an octopus do to help it hide?

The Uplands

1. Name three animals at the Nature Center that live in the upland habitats.
2. Find an animal in the upland exhibits that hops. Write its name here: _____
3. What colors do you see on the rainbow trout?

Time to head outside!

Shark & Ray Experience *(Turn right when you enter.)*

1. Name three animals that live in the Shark & Ray Experience.
2. What is the shape of most rays' teeth?
3. What are the leathery eggs laid by some sharks and rays called?
4. How many leopard sharks can you count?

Marsh Observation Deck *(Now go to the deck on your left.)*

1. What are two types of wading birds?
2. What are four types of surface feeders?
3. Name six shoreline birds that you can find in Sweetwater Marsh.



Burrowing Owl Exhibit *(Now walk down the ramp for your next questions.)*

1. What type of animal can a burrowing owl imitate?
2. Where does a burrowing owl nest?

Shorebird Enclosure *(Now take the boardwalk to the aviary.)*

1. How many different shorebirds can you spot within the large aviary? See if you can name one!
2. What does a clapper rail eat? *(Hint: Look at the dinner plates.)*

Eagle Mesa and Raptor Row *(Now follow the path to Eagle Mesa.)*

1. What are the things all raptors have in common?
2. What do raptors use their strong toes and sharp talons for?
3. Find the national bird of the United States? What about Mexico?
4. Why do turkey vultures have a bald head?
5. How many different types of owls can you find?
6. What do ospreys like to eat?

Turtle Lagoon

1. How long can Eastern Pacific green sea turtles live?
2. How many sea turtles can you count?
3. What is their favorite food?
4. Where do they make their nests?

Bay Observation Deck *(Now go up the ramp to the Bay Observation Deck)*

1. How did the native people use the plants and animals of Sweetwater Marsh?
2. Name one living thing you can see from the Observation Deck?
3. What is your favorite animal at the Nature Center?

Lower Grade Scavenger Hunt

The Bay

~Answers~

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*

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. What colors do you see on the rainbow trout? *Green, pink, red, white, silver, black*

Shark & Ray Experience

1. Name three animals that live in the Shark & Ray Experience. *Leopard shark, bat ray, round ray, etc*
2. What is the shape of most rays' teeth? *Flat, molar-like teeth for grinding shellfish*
3. What are the leathery eggs laid by some sharks and rays called? *Mermaid's purse*
4. How many leopard sharks can you count? *Subject to change*

Marsh Observation Deck

1. What are two types of wading birds? *Great egret, great blue heron*
2. What are four types of surface feeders? *Northern pintail, mallard, green-winged teal, and cinnamon teal*
3. Name six shoreline birds that you can find in Sweetwater Marsh. *Plovers, sandpipers, Dowitchers, Avocet, Marbled Godwit, Long-billed Curlew*

Burrowing Owl Exhibit

1. What type of animal can a burrowing owl imitate? *Rattlesnake*
2. Where does a burrowing owl nest? *Abandoned squirrel burrows*

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, red-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*

Eagle Mesa and Raptor Row

1. What are the things all raptors have in common? *Strong toes and sharp talons, hooked beaks for tearing flesh, and excellent binocular vision*
2. What do raptors use their strong toes and sharp talons for? *Catch and hold prey*
3. Find the national bird of the United States? What about Mexico? *Bald eagle, golden eagle*
4. Why do turkey vultures have a bald head? *To keep clean*
5. How many different types of owls can you find? *Barn, short-eared, great horned, screech*
6. What do ospreys like to eat? *Almost exclusively fish*

Turtle Lagoon

1. How long can Eastern Pacific green sea turtles live? *100 years +*
2. How many sea turtles can you count? *Subject to change*
3. What is their favorite food? *Sea grasses and algae*
4. Where do they make their nests? *In the sand*

Bay Observation Deck

1. How did the native people use the plants and animals of Sweetwater Marsh? *Food, medicine, dyes, and materials*
2. Name one living thing you can see from the Observation Deck? *Subject to change*
3. What is your favorite animal at the Nature Center?