

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY, AND ART

This Month's Theme: Wild California

By Andrea Wisniewski and Christopher Horrigan, Santa Barbara Zoo

Wanted: Native California Wildlife

Reason: To demonstrate the unique and diverse habitats of California and the species that depend on them.

Suspect: Desert Tortoise

Range: Southeastern California, western Arizona, and extreme southern Nevada. Habitat: Desert Skills: Lives in burrows which keep it warm on cold nights, and cool on hot

days. The burrows can be 33 feet long. Challenge: How long is your room at home compared to the burrow of a desert tortoise?

Suspect: Channel Island Fox

Range: Restricted to the six largest of the Channel Islands. Habitat: California Channel Islands Skills: Can climb tall shrubs to reach ber-

insects. Challenge: Imagine you lived on an island.

How would you find food and water?

Suspect: California Condor Range: Along the West

Coast from Canada through Mexico Habitat: Mountains Skills: Largest soaring bird in North America, with a 9.5-foot wingspan.



Challenge: With several friends, stretch out your "wings" (arms) from tip to tip. See how many of you it takes to create a 9.5foot wingspan.

Suspect: Bald Eagle

Range: Found soaring over most of North America. Habitat: Lakes and rivers Skills: Has spiny scales on the soles of its toes, which, along with sharp talons, allow for excellent gripping of slippery fish, its main food. Challenge: Find something slimy and slippery to hold on to. Is it easier to hold with your smooth flat hands or with your sharp fingernails?





Who's Been Here?









805-964-4407; www.goletahistory.org



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Trust for Historic Preservation 805-965-0093; www.sbthp.org

Ganna Walska Lotusland 805-969-3767; www.lotusland.org

Santa Barbara

connected

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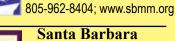
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Channel Islands

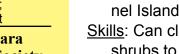


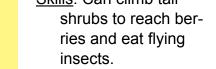
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Santa Barbara Museum of **Natural History**

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805-962-5339

www.sbzoo.org



Santa Barbara **County Parks** 805-568-2461 PARKS www.sbparks.com



805-966-5373; www.sbcaf.org **Art From Scrap**











Wildlife biologists can answer many questions such as how many and what kinds of animals live in a habitat. They can tell what type of food an the animal ate, or what it was doing, by studying its "leftovers." These "leftovers" can be anything from footprints and scat, to feathers and bones. Become a wildlife biologist. Use your detective skills to study the animal "leftovers" below. Now figure out which California native animals these items belong to.

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Kids do Ecology

Analysis and Synthesis

Ty Warner

Sea Center

www.sbnature.org

Urban Agriculture

at Fairview Gardens

www.fairviewgardens.org

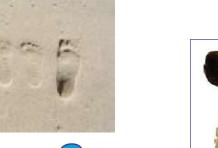
805-962-2526

The Center for

National Center for Ecological

nceas.ucsb.edu/nceas-web/kids





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D. bald eagle feathers, E. desert tortoise burrow. Answers: A. fox footprint, B. shed snake skin, C. human footprints,

Take a Walk on the Wild Side!

You can view these beautiful and unique animals at the Santa Barbara Zoo. The California condor will be joining us after we complete construction of its new exhibit. You could also gather your family and friends and head out to our local forests, mountains, lakes, and deserts. Just remember, you are a guest in the homes of our wild animals, so treat them with respect. Go with an adult, keep your distance, do not litter or collect anything, and have fun. Pictures are a great way to record your wild adventures as you track native Californian species.



True or False

- California condors are the largest soaring birds in North America.
- 2. Desert tortoises live in forests.
- Т 3. Channel Island foxes can be found across California.
- 4. Bald eagles use long talons to catch fish.
- 5. Wildlife biologists use footprints and scat to study animals.

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