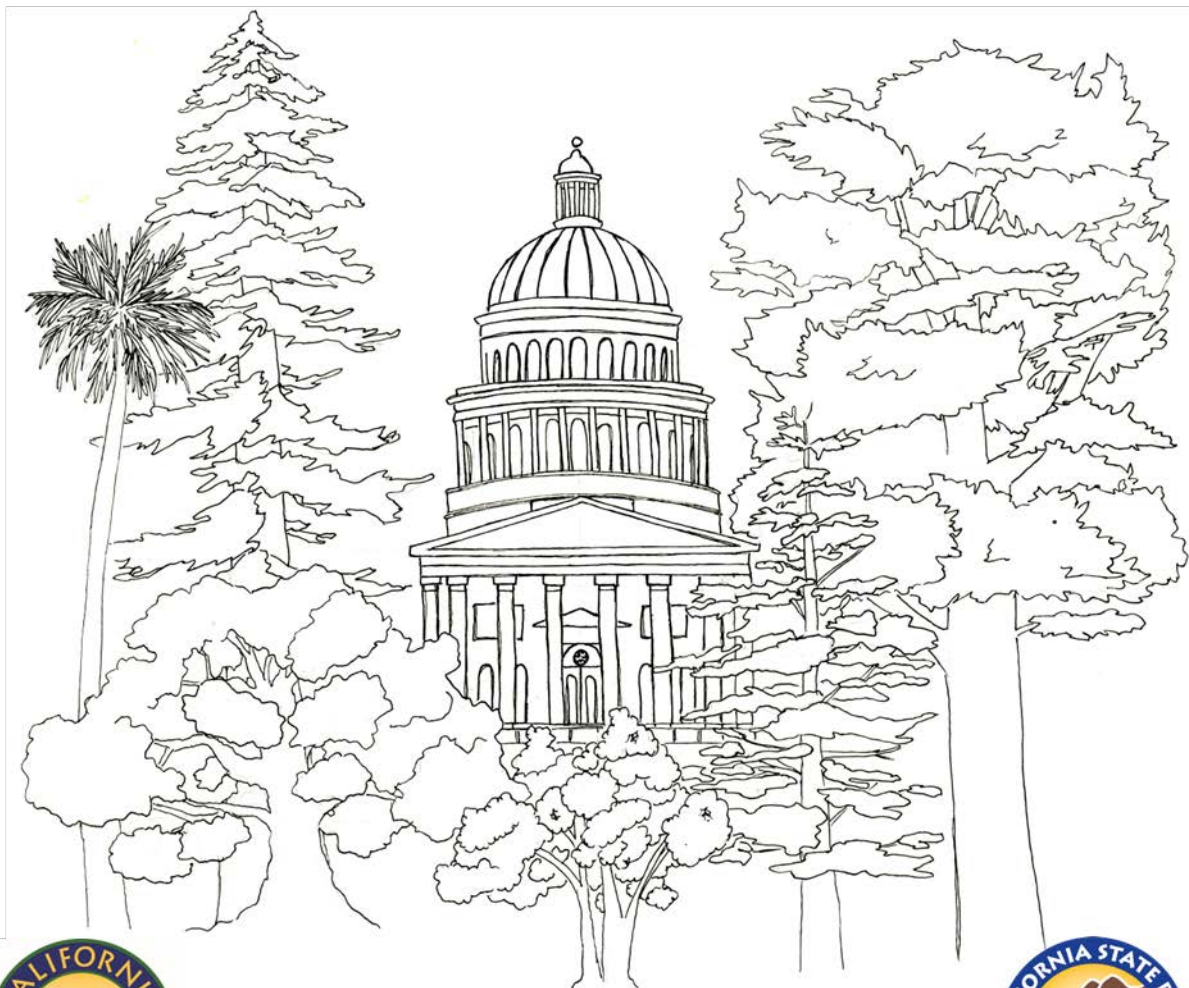




California State Capitol Park

JUNIOR RANGER GUIDE

CALIFORNIA'S BIODIVERSITY



California's Biodiversity

BECOME A CAPITOL PARK JUNIOR RANGER

Welcome to the self-guided Junior Ranger Program at State Capitol Park!

Explore the Capitol Park grounds with some fun activities. This booklet will guide you along as you learn more about urban parks and their ecosystems. This program is designed for kids ages 7 to 12.

After completing this booklet, go to the information desk in the capitol building or send us an email at CapitolJuniorRangers@parks.ca.gov.



One of our Junior Ranger staff members will stamp your logbook and sign the certificate on the back page of this booklet. You will earn a logbook and a wooden badge.

Bring your logbook to other California State Parks to get it stamped and get more rewards.

Let's begin our adventure!

Learn more about all California State Park Junior Ranger Programs at:
www.parks.ca.gov/juniorrangers

California's Biodiversity



JUNIOR RANGER PLEDGE

I _____ promise to:

Treat the **earth** and all living things with care and respect.

Be careful of what I do and how it affects others.

Learn about the importance of nature and our heritage.

(Signature)

Trees in the Park

Meet a Tree

Step 1: Find a partner (friend, parent, sibling, etc.) .

Step 2: Put on a blindfold or shut your eyes (no cheating!) and have your partner spin you around until you get a little dizzy.

Step 3: Ask your partner to guide you to a mystery tree.



Step 4: Touch the tree and explore all the details of the mystery tree.

Step 5: When you think you have enough information to identify your tree, ask your partner to guide you back to the starting point.

Step 6: Remove your blindfold and look for the mystery tree you just “met”.

Step 7: After finding your tree, switch roles with your partner and start over.

Animals in the Park

Animal Superpowers

Animals have some amazing adaptations to survive and thrive. Match each park animal with its superpower.

- _____ I can smell rotting flesh from miles away.
- _____ I can taste flowers with my feet and disappear using my camouflage.
- _____ I can rotate my four feet 180 degrees.
- _____ I can regrow my body parts.
- _____ I can use my wings to heat up or cool off my hive.
- _____ My heart can beat over 1,200 times per minute when I fly.
- _____ I can release blood from my knees and play dead.

A



Ladybird Beetle

B



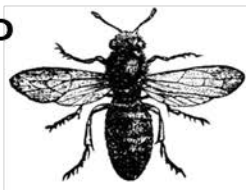
Earthworm

C



Turkey Vulture

D



Bee

E



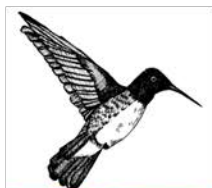
Butterfly

F



Tree Squirrel

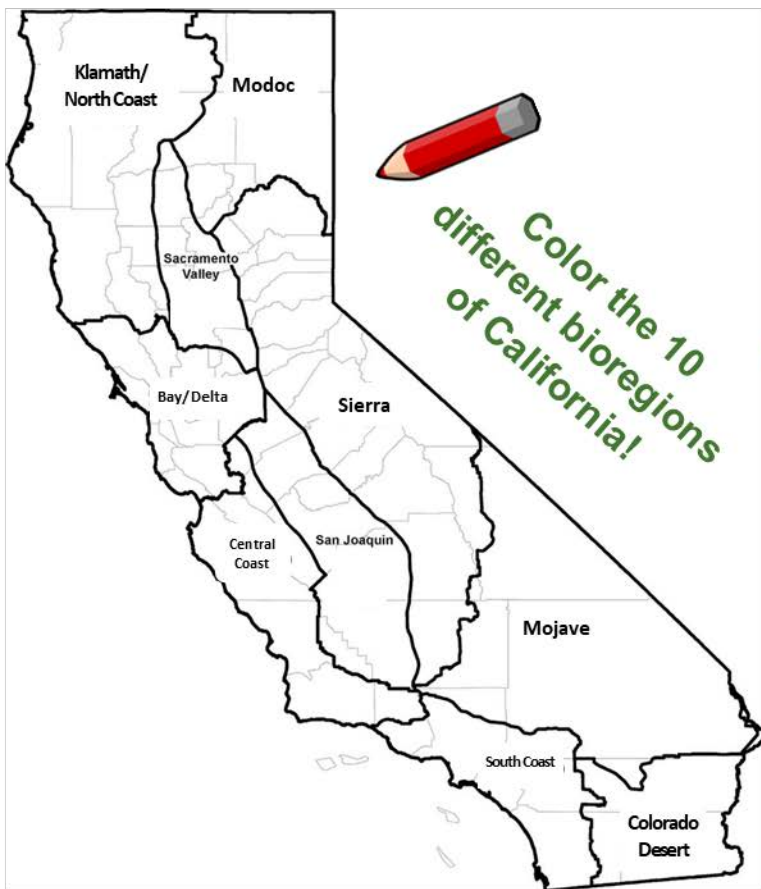
G



Hummingbird

California Bioregions

California is a national and global hotspot of biodiversity. Biodiversity is also our natural defense against the impacts of climate change and is a powerful solution to our climate crisis. A bioregion is an area with boundaries defined by geographic and biological features. California's mountains, deserts, rivers, and coastlines separate California into ten bioregions.



Select a bioregion of California.

List four plants or animals that you are likely to find there.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Biodiversity Bingo

Look around in the park. Find five squares in a vertical, horizontal, or diagonal row to complete your bingo card

Find something that would eat an insect	Find something caught in a spider's web	Find 2 different sources of water	Find a fungus	Hug a tree
Find something a bird and mammal would eat	Find 2 things that a bird would eat	Close your eyes. Count the different animal sounds	How many different species found in a 1-foot area	Find a plant or animal decomposing
Find 3 different colored flowers	Find an animal chasing another animal	Take a deep breath	Find an animal that flies	Find a leaf bigger than your hand
Find an animal eating a plant	Find a palm tree	Find 2 pollinators	Mimic a bird sound	Find 5 different types of seeds
Find a nest	Draw a flower	Smell a fragrant plant	Find 3 of any one species	Find animal tracks or scat

Biodiversity Quiz

Biodiversity refers to the variety of living **species** on Earth; including plants, animals, bacteria, and **fungi**.

1. **Decide if these statements are True (T) or False (F)**

- _____ Over 30% of all plant and **vertebrate** (animals with a spine) species that are found in the USA live in California.
- _____ **Pollinators**, like bees and bats, are not important to the ecosystem.
- _____ There are over 280 State and National Parks in California dedicated to preserving **wildlife** and biodiversity.

Circle the correct answers below:

2. **Why is biodiversity important?**

- A. It makes food.
- B. It keeps **ecosystems** balanced.
- C. It makes predators run faster.



Biodiversity Quiz

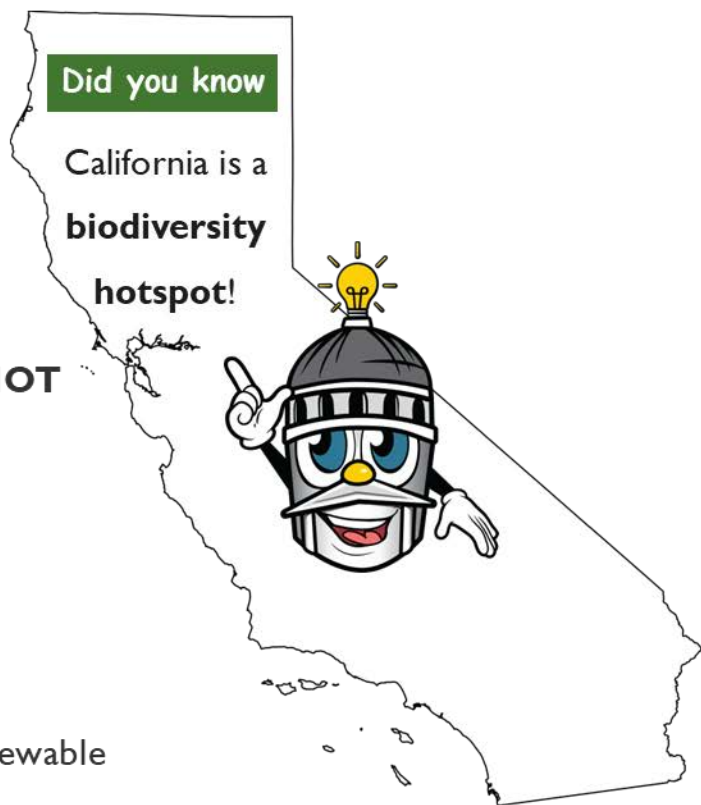
3. Which ecosystems are found in **California**?

- A. Coastal Beaches
- B. Mountainous Redwood Forests
- C. Desert Valleys
- D. Oak Woodlands
- E. All of the above

4. Which of the following is **NOT**

Ann a threat to biodiversity?

- A. Habitat destruction
- B. Climate change
- C. Conservation efforts
- D. Using too many nonrenewable resources



Biodiversity Word Scramble

Unscramble the biodiversity words below. (If you need a hint, look for words highlighted in yellow in the Junior Ranger Guide.)

1. SLRIQREU _ _ _ _ _

2. AKRP _ _ _

3. IESSPCE _ _ _

4. ERET _ _ _

5. OHSOPTT _ _ _ _

6. AAMLISN _ _ _ _

7. LTAPNS _ _ _ _

8. DEFIILLW _ _ _ _ _ _

9. FNGIU _ _ _ _

10. CRIAFALION _ _ _ _ _ _ _

11. YBLUFRETT _ _ _ _ _

12. TSARONOPIL _ _ _ _ _

13. TOMEYCSSE _ _ _ _ _

14. RTIIOYBEVDSI _ _ _ _ _ _ _

15. AEHRT _ _ _ _

16. UBNRA _ _ _ _

Use the boxed letters above to decode the secret message below:

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	15	2	1	10	6	7	11	12	5	10	4	10	13	15	6	8

—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7	1	15	14	1	10	6	7	11	9	10	10	4	12	16	3	6	4	13



This Certifies that

(Your Name)

has completed the self-guided Junior Ranger Adventure Guide for

California State Capitol Park

and is now an official

Junior Ranger

Staff Signature

Date



