

Spring Tales

Newsletter

Salt Marshes



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California has very few salt marsh habitats. However, these few areas are important because they filter pollutants and provide a barrier to destructive waves.

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Meet the youth hunting photo contest winners



1st place winner

Dalton Taberna, age 9 and Hunter Taberna, age 13 in blind while hunting ducks at the junior hunt weekend in Los Banos.



2nd place winner

Haley Hawkins, 14 years old, hunting for honkers on a CWA hunt program trip in Adel, Oregon.

Our Salt Marshes

California has only 3% of the coastal salt marshes in the United States, covering around 145 square miles of the state. Most of these salt marshes are in San Francisco Bay which is the largest stretch of coastal salt marsh on the Pacific coast. Salt marshes can be found along bays, lagoons, and estuaries, where low lands are protected from constant wave action. Salt marsh habitat formed along the coast of California as glaciers from the Ice Age melted, causing the sea level to rise and flooding large areas of low land.

Salt marshes are nature's most effective filters like a funnel. Marsh soils filter pollutants, and soil organisms absorb these pollutants. Because they are between land and water, marshes can decompose or break down toxins before they reach open bays and the ocean. Coastal salt marshes also act as a protective buffer or barrier, blocking the shore from destructive waves, slowing coastline erosion and protecting inland areas from flooding.

Most plants and animals cannot survive in the salt marsh because of the high amount of salt, lack of oxygen in the soil and changes in water temperature that come with the tides. The low, middle and high marshes all support different species based on the unique conditions at each level.

Species You Might See



Salt marsh harvest mouse



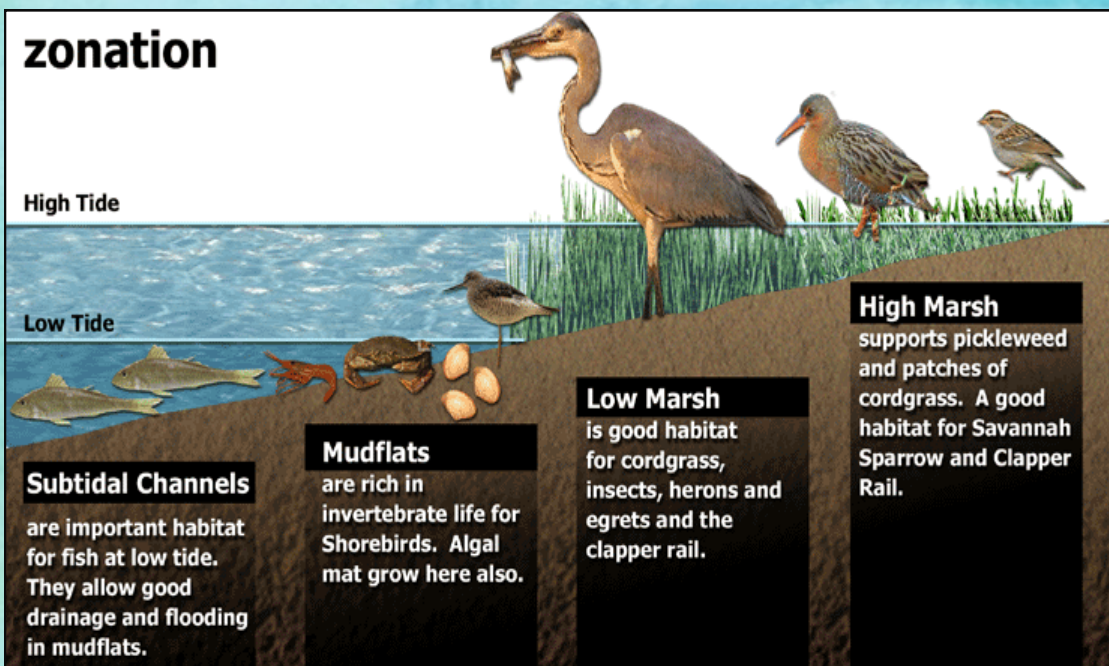
California clapper rail



Fiddler crab



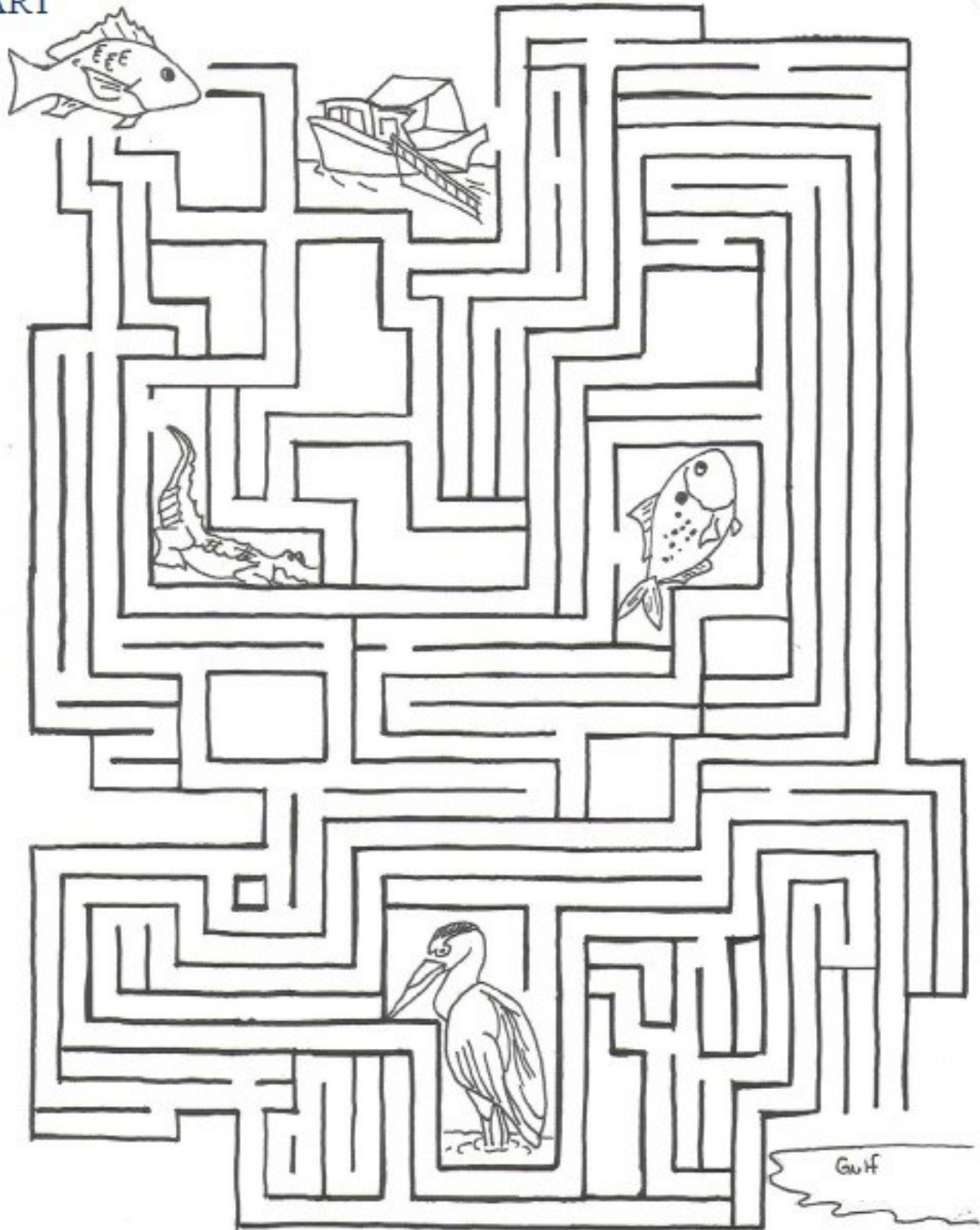
King (Chinook) salmon



Salt Marsh Maze

Salt Marshes are great places for baby animals to grow up. There is protection, shelter, and lots of food to eat. Some animals leave the Salt Marsh and go to live in deeper waters. Help this juvenile snapper find its way past all the predators and out to the Gulf
Good Luck!

START



FINISH

THE FILTER EFFECT

INTRODUCTION

This activity illustrates the filtration power of wetland plants. Using a celery stalk in colored water will simulate how wetland plants absorb pollution and act as natural water filters. The activity takes two days, as the celery stalks will need to sit overnight to create the results.

MATERIALS

- Glass Jar
- Red Food Coloring
- 2 Celery Stalks
- Tap Water

PROCEDURE

1. Fill the jar 1/2 to 2/3 full with water and add several drops of red food coloring to the water.
2. Cut off the bottom half inch of the celery to prepare them, and place the celery in the water overnight.
3. Make a hypothesis about what will happen to the celery. How will the celery change or look like?
4. The next day, observe how the colored water has traveled by breaking open the stalks to see the celery's tissue.



For more information on our education programs or to get involved, contact Sabreena Britt, Education Coordinator at (916) 648-1406 Ext. 102 or sbritt@calwaterfowl.org

For more information and our calendar of events OR to DONATE to our education programs and newsletter, visit <https://www.calwaterfowl.org/Donate-online>