

# JUNIOR RANGER

This certifies that

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has completed all activities, and is granted the title of  
Junior Ranger for taking on active interest in the

## Golden Gate National Recreation Area

### Junior Ranger Pledge

I promise to help take care of the beaches I visit including  
the Golden Gate National Parks.

I also promise to continue to explore, learn about, and  
protect the natural world wherever I go.

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Junior Ranger Signature

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Park Official Signature

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Date



Official Park Stamp

# Junior Ranger

## Activity Book

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Coastal Beaches  
Golden Gate National Recreation Area



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

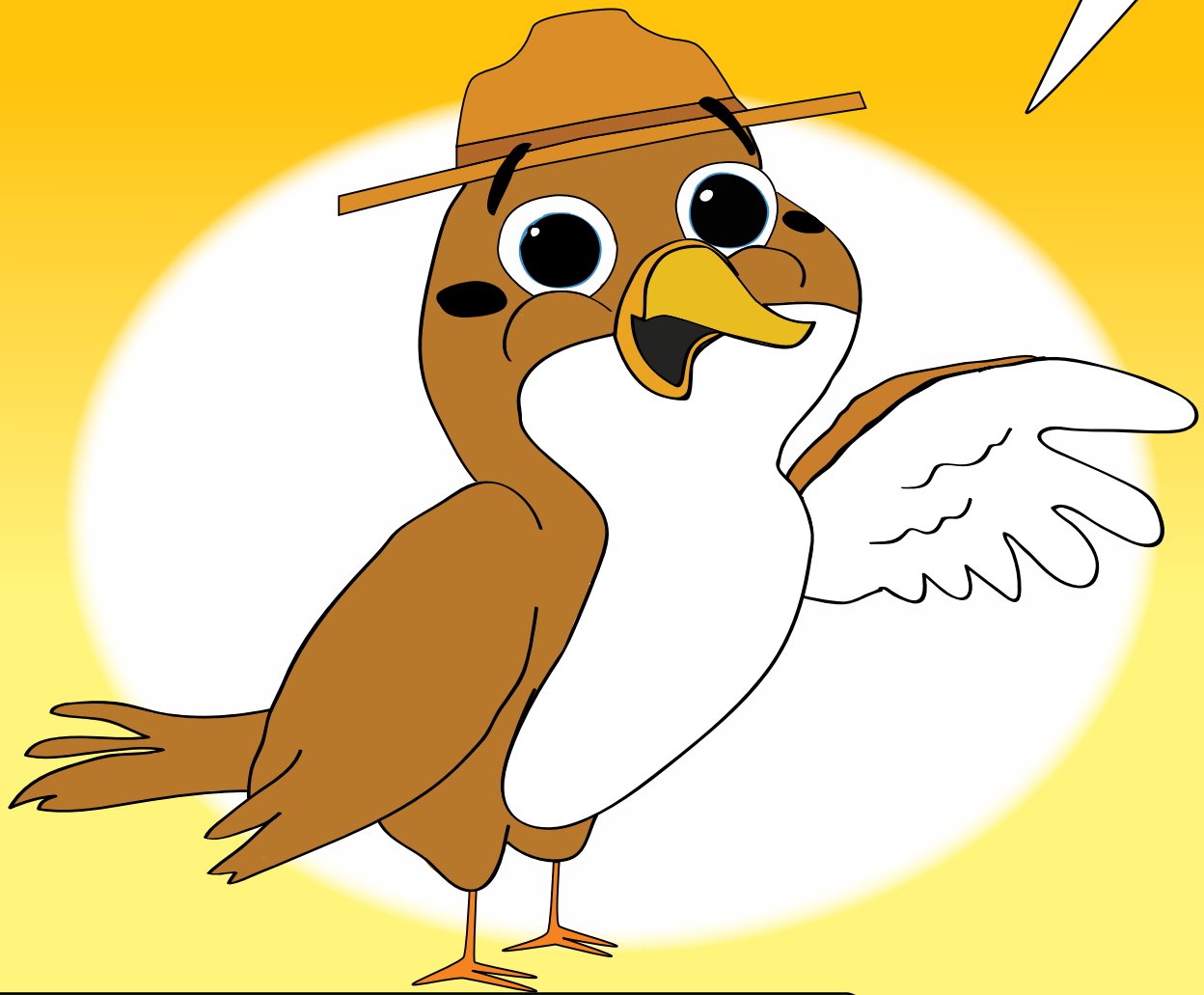


Discover how to help keep our beaches healthy with Petey Plover!



# Welcome to... The Golden Gate National Recreation Area!

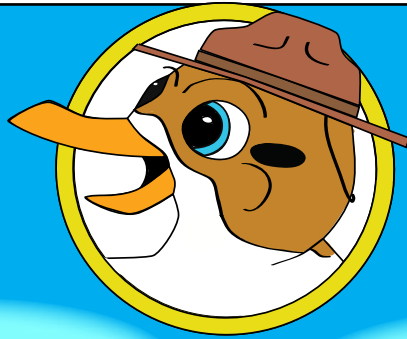
Hey there! My name is Petey Plover and I'll be your helpful guide through your Junior Ranger Packet! Together, we can help to make our beaches fun, safe, and exciting for everybody to enjoy!



Hi! YOU can help keep your beaches clean and safe in fun and easy ways. Look for me on the pages ahead to find out how!



We need your help to keep our beaches beautiful. Knowing more about beaches and oceans in your National Parks is a big step toward understanding life along the coast.



**If you are...**

**Then you should...**

6–7 years old...



**SAMMIE**

Look for pages with Sammie Seastar in the upper corner, choose 3 pages, and become a Junior Ranger.



**CARLA**

8–9 years old...

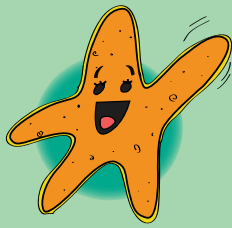
Choose 6 pages with Carla Crab or Sammy Seastar in the upper corner and become a Junior Ranger.

10 and up...



**LARRY**

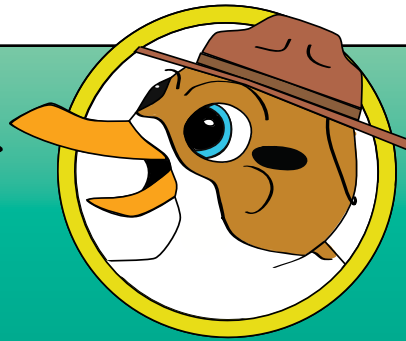
You get to hang out with Larry Sealion! Complete the entire packet and become a Junior Ranger.



# Be Alert, Be Safe

The Pacific Ocean is the largest ocean in the world. It is very powerful. Conditions change all the time and can sometimes be dangerous. The more you know about risks in an area, the safer you will be in that area!

Some waves may be small while others may be very big! Big waves, also known as tidal waves, can be very destructive to anything that happens to be onshore nearby. Sneaker waves have been known to appear out of nowhere and soak anything near the waterline.



Look at the waves. How big are they? Rate them from 1-5, with 1 being very small or no waves, and 5 being very big with whitecaps.

1

2

3

4

5

Make sure you dispose of your trash properly!



# Be Alert, Be Safe

Sometimes strong winds may be a warning of a potential storm coming from the ocean. Generally, cool air pulled toward the coast fills the space of the warm air that has risen upon contact with the land, creating strong winds in the bay.

How fast is the wind blowing today? Rate it from 1-5, with 1 being no breeze and 5 being a strong wind.

1

2

3

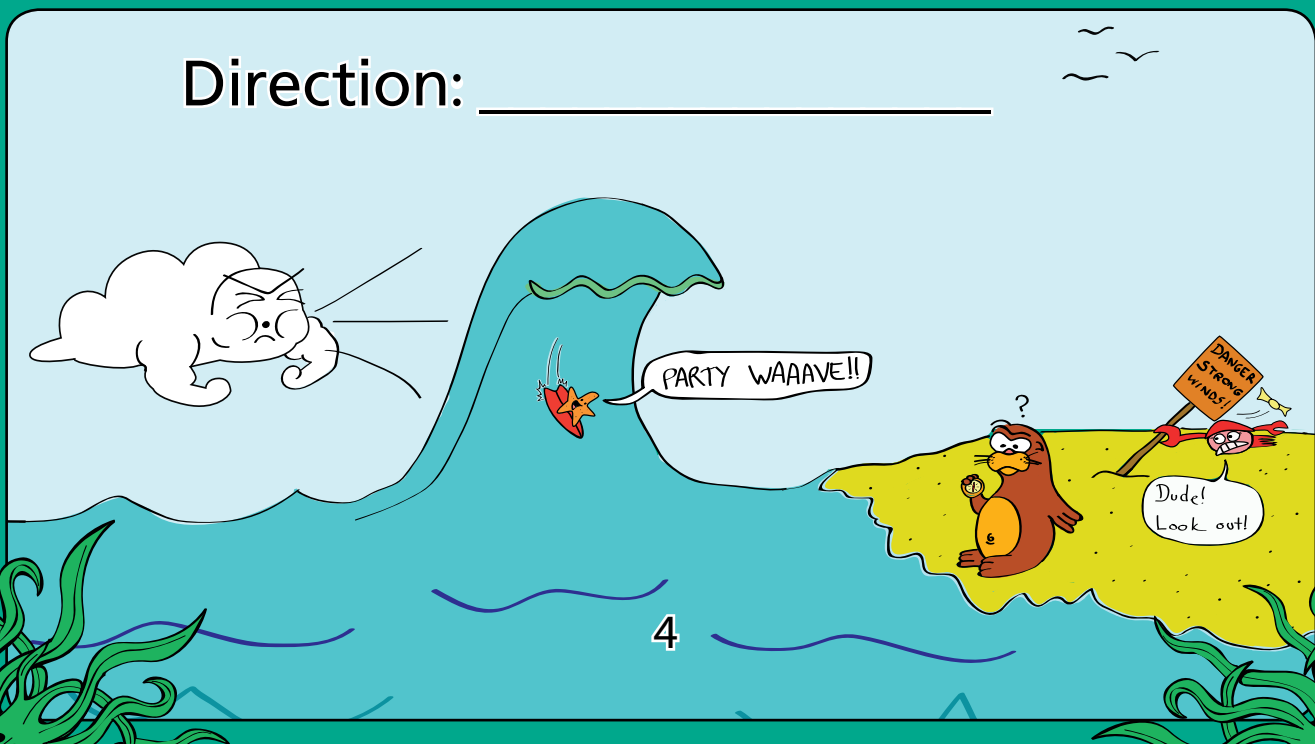
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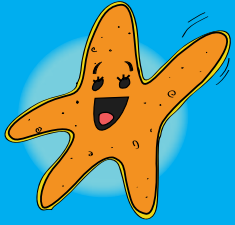
5

Wind direction can also influence the weather. When wind blows from the same direction, it is called a prevailing wind. When wind shifts away from the prevailing direction, it can be assumed that the weather is about to change.

From which direction is the wind blowing?  
(Here's a hint: If you're facing the horizon of the ocean, you're probably looking toward the west!)

Direction: \_\_\_\_\_

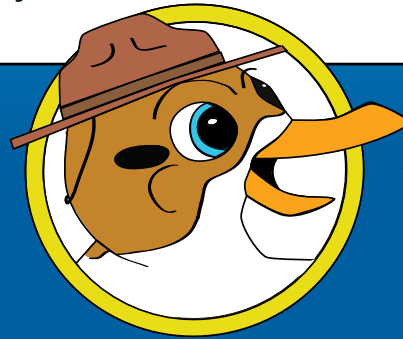




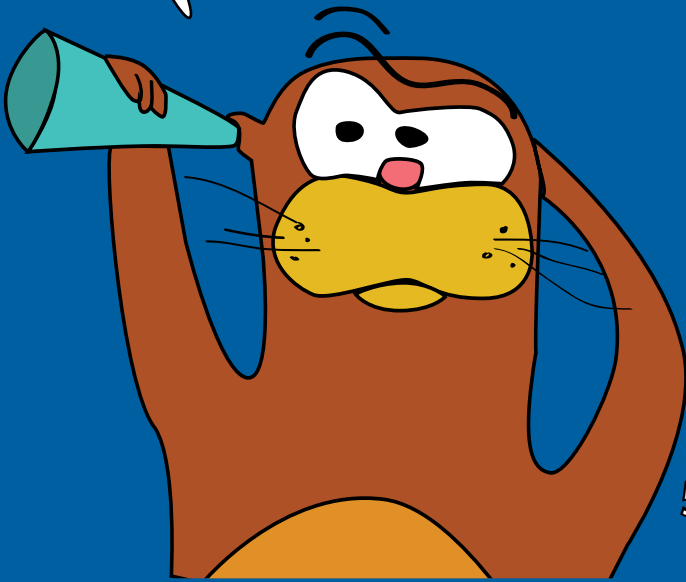
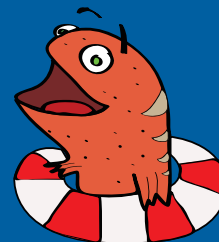
# Look, Listen, and Feel

Using your senses is one of the best ways to get to know your surroundings. Senses help you learn, explore, as well as understand everything you can about the world around you.

Take some time to find a nice, quiet spot (all to yourself!) and let your senses take over. What do you hear around you? What about smells...can you smell anything in particular? Take 5 minutes in your quiet spot to write down anything your senses are telling you.



Carry a reusable water bottle!



# Use those senses!

I hear...

I smell...

I feel...

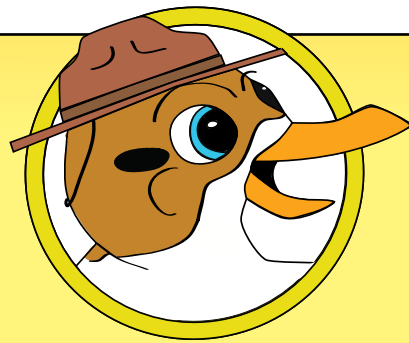
I see...



# Beach Bingo

There are so many things that can be found on the beach! From beautiful flowers to high flying seabirds, the coastline is a busy place full of all kinds of living things. In addition, many beaches have human-made objects that can help you further enjoy your stay. It is important to be familiar with your surroundings, and how to find things within them!

On the next page, there are 16 items found around nearby beaches. How many of them can you find? Try to get 4 in a row! If you can find all 16, you'll be the Beach Bingo Champion!



Store food in reusable containers!



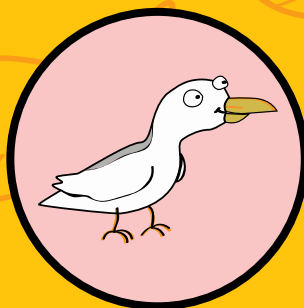
# Beach Bingo



Trash Can



Sand Dollar



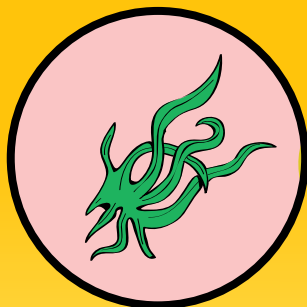
Gull



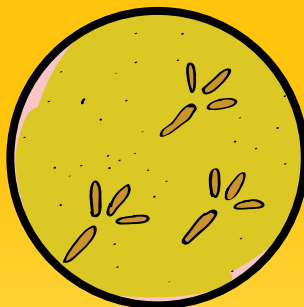
Recycling Bin



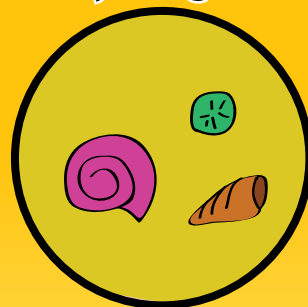
Signs



Seaweed



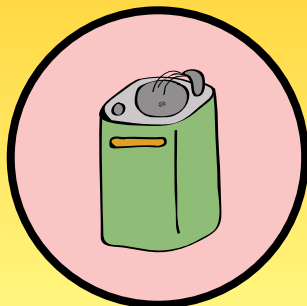
Animal Tracks



Shells



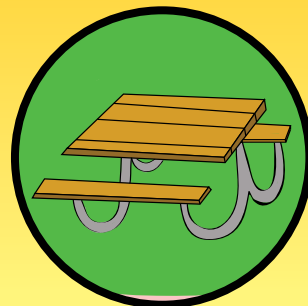
Restrooms



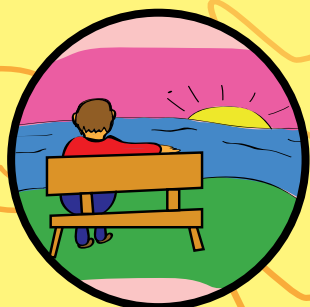
Drinking Fountain



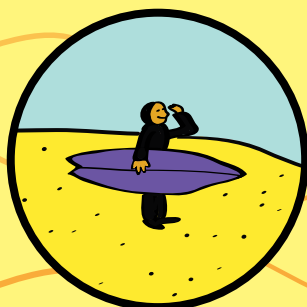
Ranger



Picnic Table



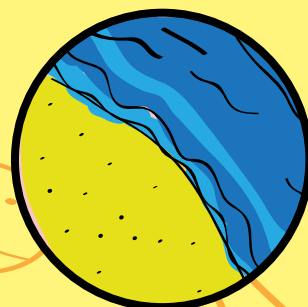
Park Bench



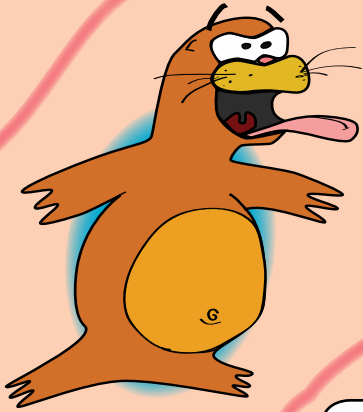
Surfer



Dune Grass



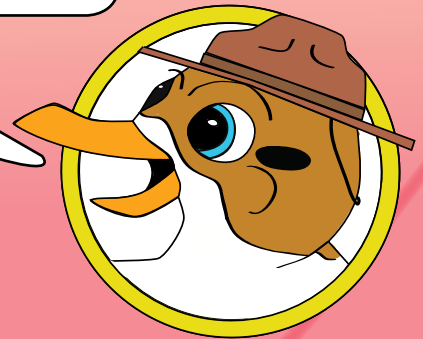
Shoreline



# Beach Planning Crew

Certain objects found on the beach weren't put there by accident. It was someone's job to decide where each object should be placed. Park planners spend their time deciding where the objects should go to better provide for the needs of each park guest.

Now it's your turn! On the next page, there is an empty beach. Larry needs your help finding the perfect spot for each one of the objects. Why did you decide to put each object where you did?



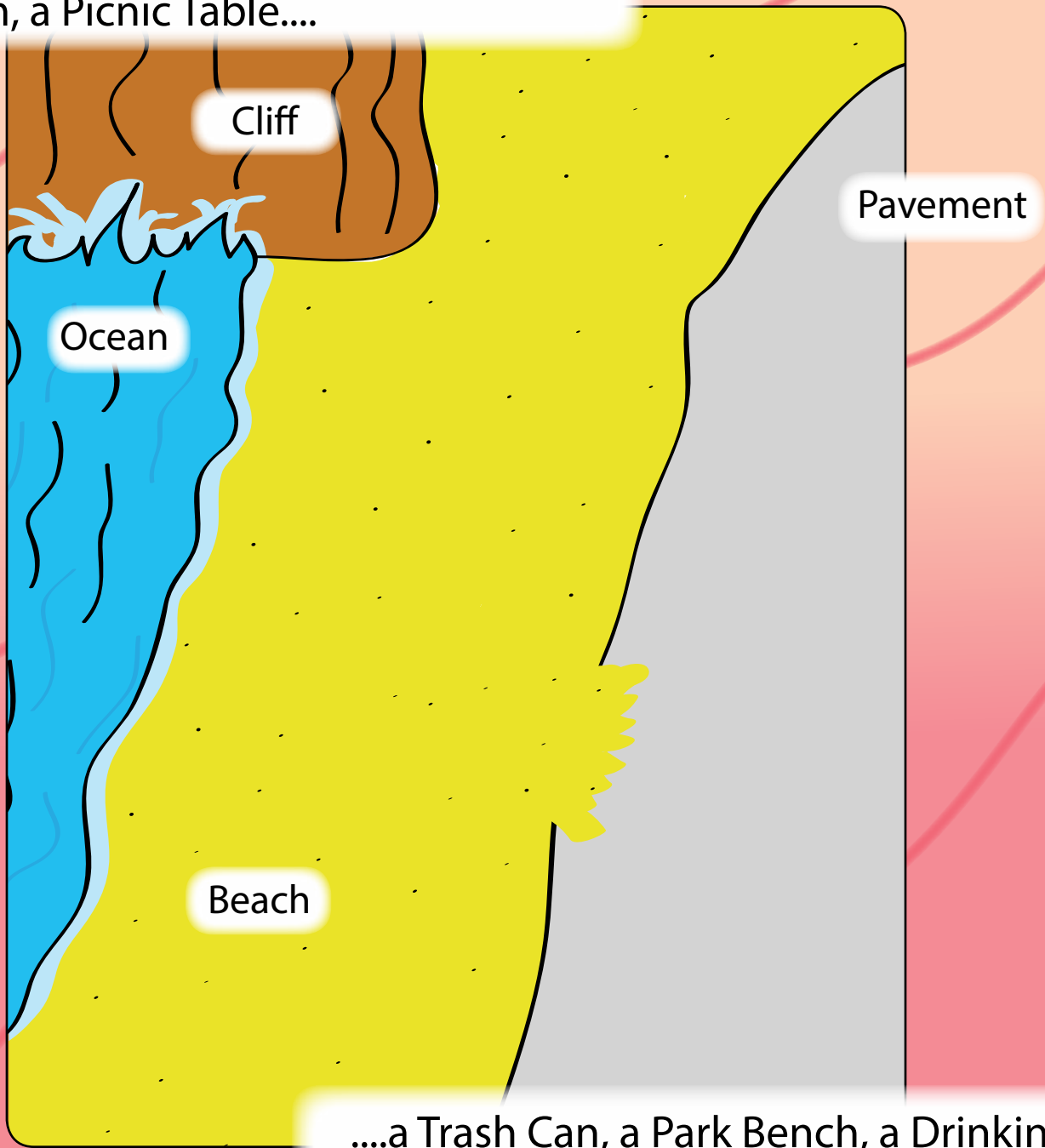
Don't disturb the wildlife!



# Beach Planning Crew

Help Larry place...

A Parking Lot, a Park Information Sign, a Bathroom, a Picnic Table...



...a Trash Can, a Park Bench, a Drinking Fountain, and a Recycling Bin!



# Endangered Species Word Search

All over the country, animals of all shapes and sizes are put on the endangered species list, which means there aren't many of them left! Whether their homes are damaged by development, or an invasive species takes over their population, the animals on this list need our help!

Right here in our Golden Gate National Recreation Area, you can find 36 different types of plants and animals that are rare, threatened, or on the endangered species list. Below are eight of the different types of threatened or endangered plants and animals that can be found in the park. Can you draw a line from the name of the animal to its picture?



Chinook Salmon



California Red Legged Frog



San Francisco Garter Snake



Humpback Whale



Presidio Clarkia

Western Snowy Plover



Coho Salmon

Stellar Sea Lion



Now, use your knowledge of these animals to find their names hidden in the Word Search on the next page!

# Endangered Species Word Search

Can you find all eight of the missing animals?  
They're hiding somewhere among the letters below!

A	U	R	A	X	Z	O	M	D	S	G	I
J	Y	I	Y	P	A	W	A	U	N	A	C
N	D	C	C	A	S	F	I	M	O	R	H
Y	G	O	N	Q	T	T	H	U	W	T	I
Y	C	H	S	E	E	B	F	Y	Y	E	N
W	R	O	O	H	L	Q	G	K	J	R	O
Q	F	R	E	D	L	E	G	G	E	D	O
O	Q	Z	K	I	A	P	R	F	P	J	K
Y	Q	M	T	B	R	W	X	N	Q	J	T
P	A	M	K	R	C	L	A	R	K	I	A
J	B	Q	C	H	U	M	P	B	A	C	K
V	V	W	Z	M	N	X	V	R	V	Z	I

**Chinook** Salmon

**Stellar** Sea-Lion

Western **Snowy** Plover

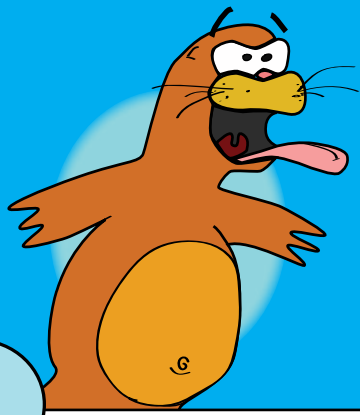
San Francisco **Garter** Snake

**Humpback** Whale

California **Red Legged** Frog

**Coho** Salmon

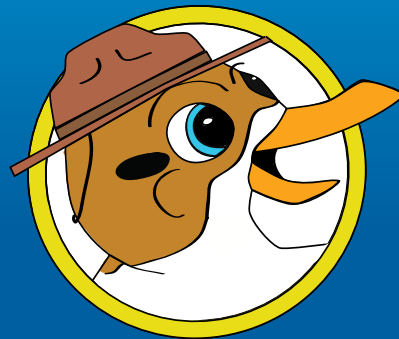
Presidio **Clarkia**



# Petey Plover's Home is Changing

For thousands of years, my fellow plovers and I have made our homes here in the sand along the coastline. We like to use this area to rest, as well as feed on the yummy flies, beetles, crabs, and other smaller animals in the area. We generally like to nest a few feet from the waters edge, which has never been much of a problem, until the changing climate has begun resulting in higher sea levels!

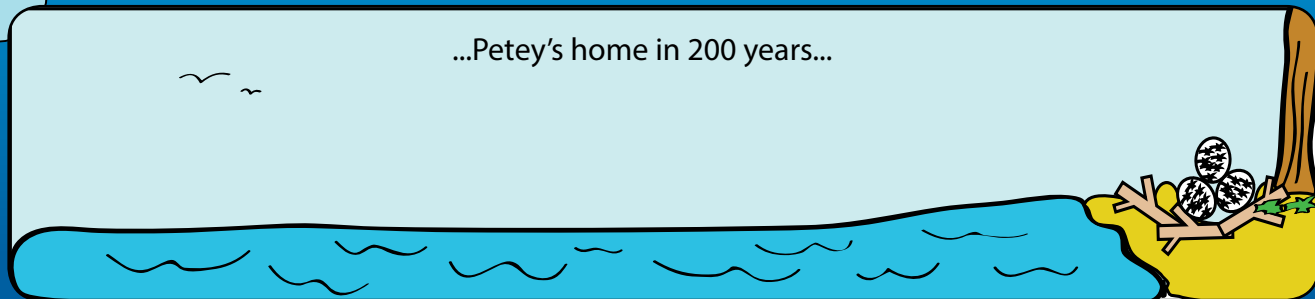
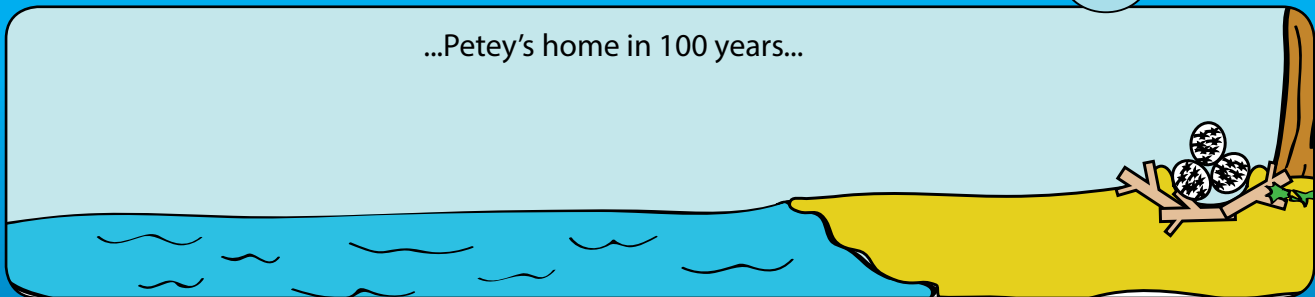
Rising sea levels make it harder for us to find a suitable home! If the oceans continue to rise, we may have to find a new place to live. What does the future hold for us? Is there any way you can help?



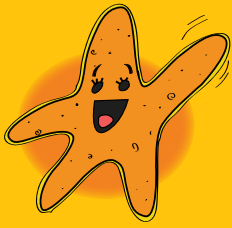
Always clean up after yourself!



# Petey Plover's Nest Changes Due to Sea Level Rise



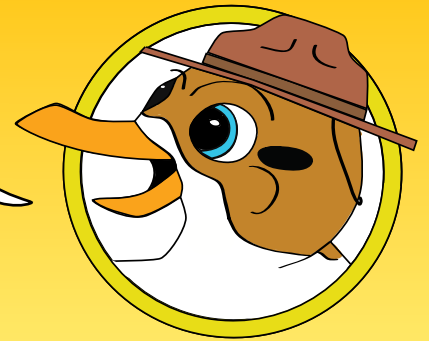
Draw where you think Petey would like his home to be!  
Why do you think it should be here?



# Look! Up in the sky!

The California coast is filled with thousands of different bird species. Some birds live here year-round, while other migratory birds stop here to rest while traveling to a seasonal home to either the north or south.

Look around. How many different kinds of birds you can see? Are there a lot? Pick your favorite bird, and draw it in the box on the next page. What kind of bird it is? Label as many of its body parts as you can.



I see #\_\_\_\_ birds!

Recycle whenever possible!



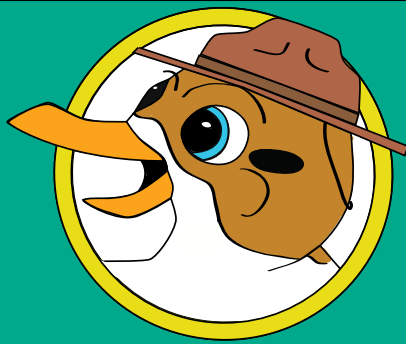




# The things you bring are the things you take

People from all over the world enjoy nearby beaches. They often bring something with them, such as food, a towel, or sand toys. Sadly, people sometimes leave these items behind. The items collect over time and eventually pollute the cool blue waters that give life to our entire planet.

In fact, specific currents in the Pacific Ocean have created two areas known as the Great Pacific Garbage Patches. They are hundreds of thousands of miles wide, each acting like a giant whirlpool for trash. How do you know the difference between what does and doesn't belong on the beach?



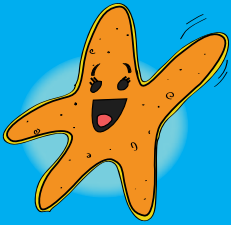
Take part in a beach cleanup or other ocean-related activities!



# The things you bring are the things you take

Circle the things that should stay on the beach and cross out the things that you should take with you.

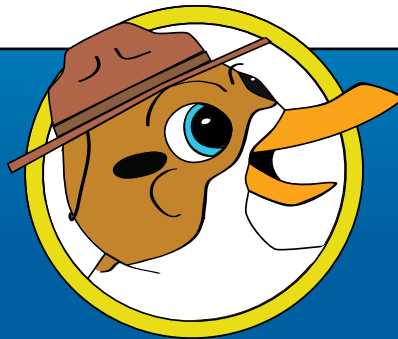




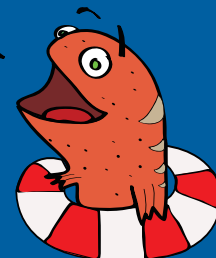
# The Proper Place

How do you feel when you visit a beach and the first thing you notice is trash? It would sure hurt to step on a piece of broken glass! What if a bird were to choke on the trash? Or the trash flew out to sea and became dinner for a school of fish? Or crushed some underwater plants? All over the world plants and animals become sick from eating or being around trash. Once the trash gets into the ecosystem it's really hard to remove!

Luckily, many people head to the coast to pick up trash, saving hundreds of animals from a meal of trash. You can help too! When you go to the beach, make sure you pack out everything that you pack in, or dispose of it properly! Tell your friends and family to do the same and we will keep our beaches clean for people, plants, and animals alike!

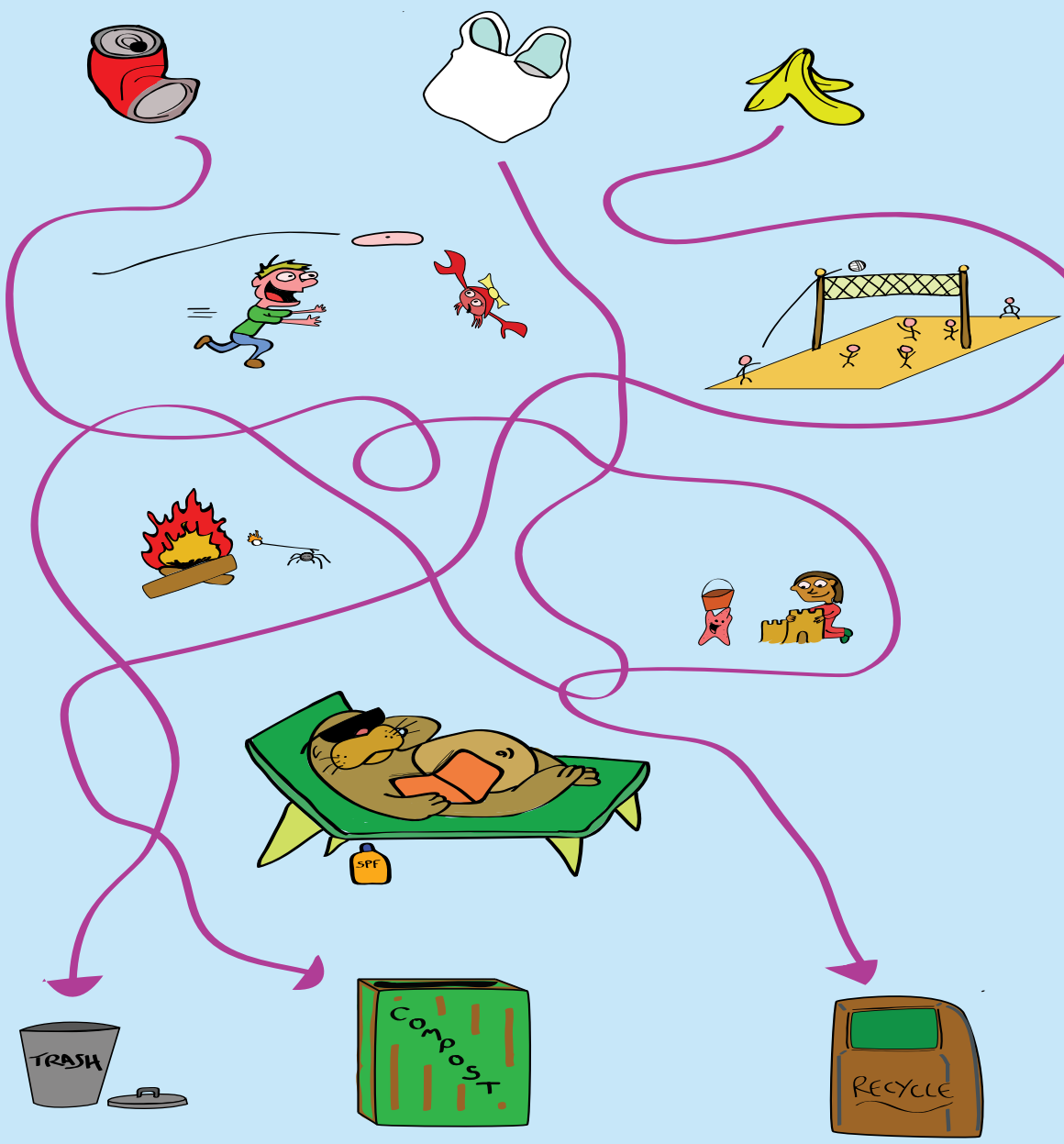


Pass on your knowledge!



# The Proper Place

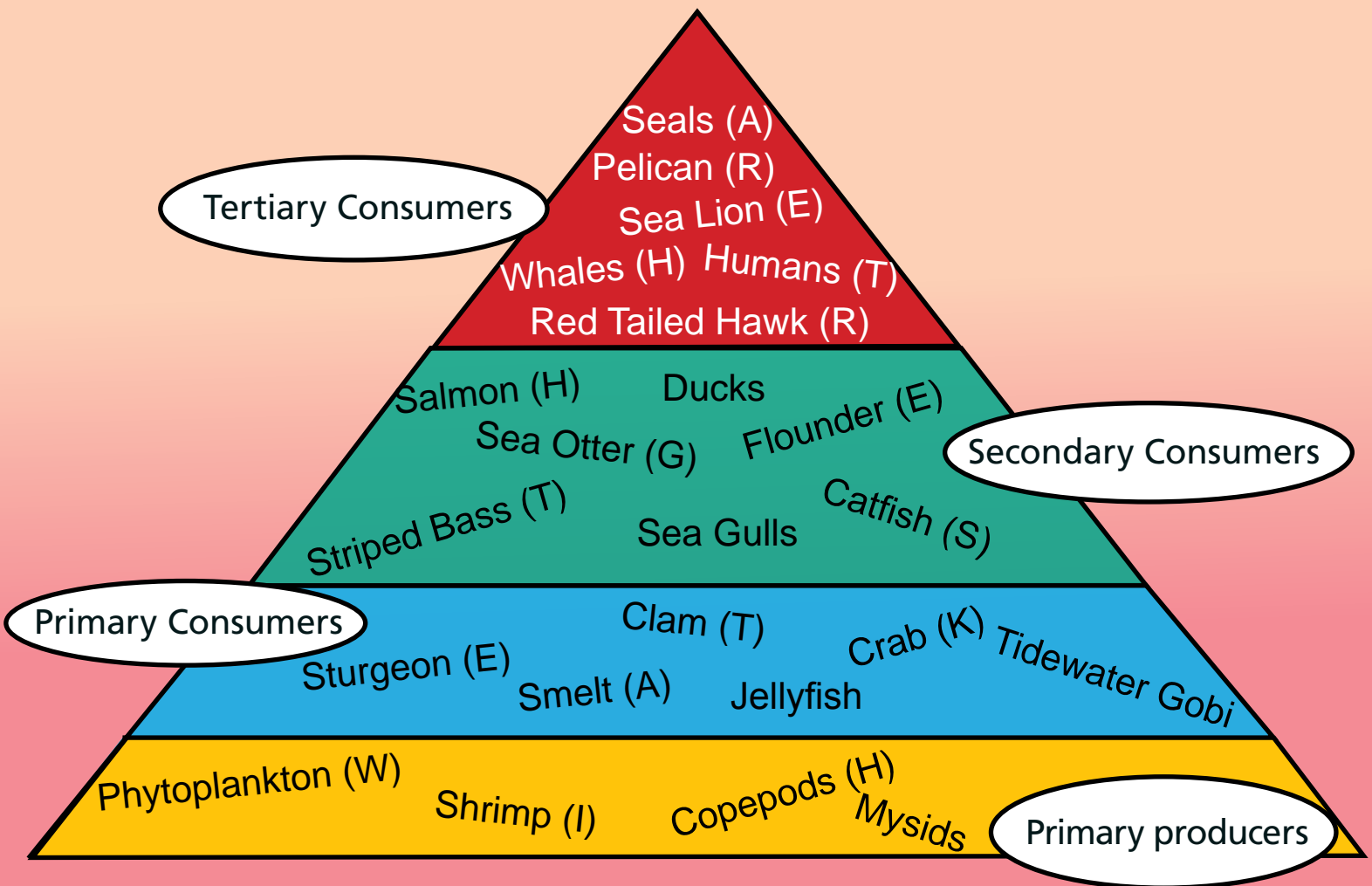
Avoid the distractions! Often, there will be many things between you and the recycle bin, compost bin, or trash bin preventing you from keeping the beach clean. Help Petey make sure the soda can, banana peel, and trash bag make it into the proper container!





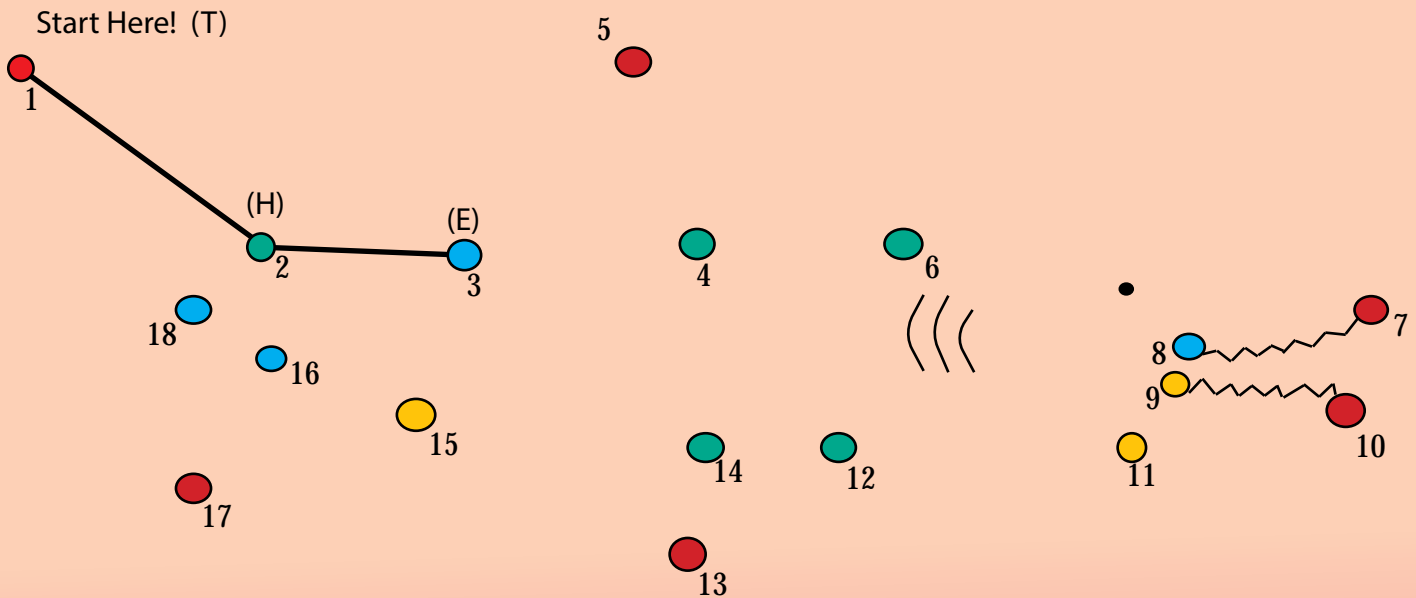
# Who is the king of the ocean's food web?

Below is a food pyramid that shows the relationship between marine animals. The animals at the bottom of the pyramid (**primary producers**) are consumed by the animals in the level above them (**primary consumers**), the animals in the blue area are eaten by the animals in the green area (**secondary consumers**), and the animals in the green area are eaten by the animals in the red area (**tertiary consumers**). Do you recognize all of the animals in the pyramid?



Who is the ultimate predator of all the oceans? On the next page, connect the dots by following the food pyramid of who eats who. Then, use those animals from the pyramid to spell out the answer! Here's a hint: If the dot is red, pick an animal with a letter from the red section! If it's green, pick from the green section! If the dot is blue or yellow...well, you get the point. Good Luck!

# Who is the king of the ocean's food web?



ANSWER:

T H E \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ !

**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

You've completed your Junior Ranger Packet!

Turn the page for your well-deserved reward...

