

The Living Coast Discovery Center

Name _____

Section _____

The Living Coast Discovery Center, 1000 Gunpowder Point Drive Chula Vista, California 91910-1201, (619) 422-2481 {Voice}..The Chula Vista Nature Center is located on the San Diego Bay approximately seven miles south of downtown San Diego and seven miles north of the international border. Access to the facility is available via free shuttles. From Interstate 5, take the E Street exit in Chula Vista, go west to the parking lot. Or take the San Diego Trolley to the Bayfront/E Street Trolley Station and Visitor Center. Buses run from either location about every 20 minutes starting at 10 a.m. Admission: \$14 Adults (18-64)

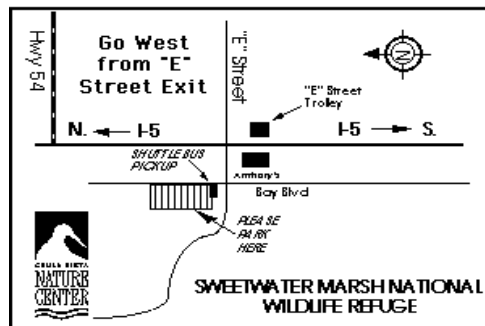
\$9 Children (4-17)

Free Children (0-3)

\$9 Seniors (65+)

\$9 Students (18+ w/ID)

Free Day: The first Tuesday of every month. General Hours Tuesday - Sunday 9:00 AM. to 5:00 PM . Summer Hours June, July and August, Every Day 9:00 AM. to 5:00 PM



1. Define the main components of a saltwater marsh:

Substrate: _____

Detritus: _____

Organisms: _____

2. What is the difference between the upper marsh and the lower marsh?

3. What are some of the major plants of the upper marsh?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____



Figure 3 Marsh Rosemary

4. What are some of the rare and endangered plants of the Sweetwater Marsh?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

5. How often are these plants covered by seawater each day?

6. How does the tiny Ringneck Snake protect itself when threatened?

7. What are some of the rare and endangered birds of the Sweetwater Marsh?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____



8. The Clapper Rail is a ground nester in the marsh. What happens to the Clapper Rail's nest during high tide?

9. What is a prime reptilian predator in the marsh on bird eggs?



10. Where does the Belding's Savannah Sparrow nest in the marsh?

11. What are some of the major plants of the lower marsh?

a. _____

b. _____

12. How does the following ecological disturbances effect the marsh?

a. Flooding _____

b. Drought _____

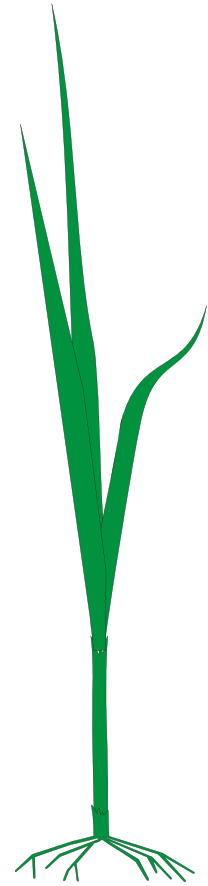
c. Humans _____

13. What did the City of Chula Vista do to change Vener Pond into a marsh?

14. What kind of diet does the Bat Ray live upon?

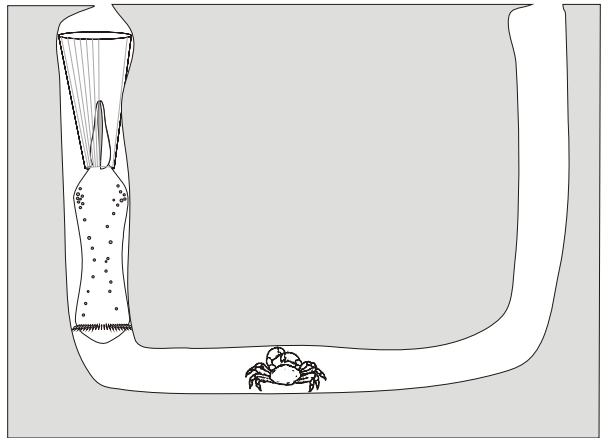
15. What do the prey items (food) have in common?

16. What kind of diet does the Sea Hare feed upon?



17. What are some of the animals that share the Fat Innkeeper's burrow?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____



18. Why is eelgrass so important to the animals of the Marsh?

19. Name the cartilaginous fishes found in the petting pool.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

20. Give the highest and lowest tides and times for today.

High _____ Time _____

Low _____ Time _____

21. Beaks and Feet:



"Raptor" designates birds who kill with their feet or talons. Name two raptors of the marsh:

1. _____ 2. _____

What is the name of the non-raptor bird of prey in the marsh?

Which bird has a beak designed for sifting the mud for invertebrates?

Which marine bird found locally has the legs located so posteriorly that it has difficulty walking, but is one of the best divers?

22. *Athene cunicularia* means "little miner." Name the bird of prey that this scientific name is applied to.

What is this bird's unique method of defense? _____
