WELCOME TO CRYSTAL COVE STATE PARK

In this booklet you will find engaging activities that will take you throughout the park. Start at the Visitor Center at the Ranger Station to examine the topography map and get the “lay of the land.” Once you’re situated, grab your water, lather your sunscreen, and put on your hat. It’s time to head into the park.

The activity guide begins in the south end on the inland side and will take you across PCH to the beach. You’ll hike in Moro Canyon and along the 1/2 mile Environmental Study Loop Trail, meander down the coastal bluff, explore the tidepools, and check out the Historic District. You can look for shorebirds on the beach or dolphins from a cliff top. Since all this explorin’ might wear you out, you can even grab lunch at the Beachcomber Café or Shake Shack.

Once you complete all the activities, you’ll know Crystal Cove State Park like the back of your hand. Off you go now. Have a great time!
RANGER REMINDERS

Stay on the trail for your own safety (no one wants an itchy poison oak rash) and to protect the plants and animals that call this park home.

Don’t feed the wildlife. If they become dependent on humans for their meals, they will lose their natural ability to forage in the wild.

After enjoying your picnic in the park, make sure to throw away all food and waste items so that the animals don’t eat our leftovers. Our food is unhealthy for them.

Leave everything behind except the sand in your shoes and the memories that you make so it’s all still here the next time you visit.

HARRY THE CRAB RULES

1. Never collect or remove animals, shells, or rocks from the tidepools.
2. Never pick up animals…observe them where they are.
3. Walk gently, taking care not to step on plants or animals.
4. Never turn rocks over.
**MAKE THE BEST CHOICE**

A stroll in Moro Canyon can be invigorating. Look for animals, listen for birds, and breathe in the fresh air. On your walk, remember to make good decisions to protect the park's beautiful natural resources. Follow the arrows. Good choices allow you to safely hike to the end of the trail, but with bad choices, uh oh, you might be walking in circles!

**Start**

- Bring your dog on the trail? Leave it at home?
- Forge your own path? Stay on the marked trail?
- Slip rocks into your pocket? Leave them in the park?
- Leave wildflowers for the pollinators? Pick wildflowers?
- Leave it at home? Leave wildflowers for the pollinators? Pick wildflowers?
- Drop your trash on the trail? Pack it out?
- Slip rocks into your pocket? Leave them in the park?
Activity 2

Animal Evidence Scavenger Hunt

While you're out on the trail, you may be lucky enough to spot wildlife, but since we don't always see animals, we look for clues or evidence they leave behind. Look up, down, and all around and observe closely to see if you can find any of the animal signs on this page and if you do, check them off and look for more.

- Feather (Red-tailed Hawk)
- Bone (Pocket Mouse)
- Tracks (Bobcat)
- Spider web (orb weaver)
- Scat (Coyote poop)
- Nest (Anna’s Hummingbird)
- Tracks (Coyote)
- Tracks (Bobcat)
- Spittle Bug

Activity 3

Animal Adaptations

Can you match the physical adaptation on the right with the animal that best represents that characteristic on the left? Some animals might have more than one of these adaptations. Draw an arrow to your best match for each animal!

1. Mule Deer
2. Great Horned Owl
3. Bobcat
4. Horned Lizard
5. Striped Skunk
6. Opossum
7. Cottontail Rabbit
8. Rattlesnake

A. Camouflage
B. Heat Sensing Pits
C. Rotating Head (270 Degrees)
D. Spraying Stinky Stuff
E. Retractable Claws
F. Prehensile Tail
G. Squirting Blood from the Eyes
H. Big Ears

PLANTS AND POLLINATORS

Plants have flowers to attract pollinators. Pollinators are animals that help plants reproduce, creating fruits and seeds, by spreading pollen from one flower to another using their body parts. Flowers come in many different colors, shapes, and sizes and because of that different flowers attract different pollinators. See if you can match the flowers below to the organism that pollinates them. Hint: Think about what body part the organisms below might use to spread pollen.

1. Poppy
   Flower is large and bowl-shaped, great for insects with a hard shell.

2. Sunflower
   Flower is shallow with a landing platform, great for insects that go bzzzz.

3. Lupine
   Flower is tubular with a wide landing pad, great for insects that flutter.

4. Gooseberry
   Flower is funnel-shaped with a strong support perch, great for animals that eat at night.

5. Prickly Pear
   Flower is bowl-shaped with heart shaped petals, great for birds that hover.

Activity 5

What's Out There on the Bluff Trail

Start at Pelican Point parking lot #4 for this one-mile hunt which will take about an hour and lead you along the bluff trail to the overlooks, and along the wooden boardwalk. Remember to stay on the paved path and keep your eyes open to find all the clues.

Feel the leaf of the Western Sycamore and think of a good adjective to describe the way it feels.

Shake “hands” with the California Sagebrush then smell your hands. Do you like the way it smells?

Find the Hummingbird panel. How many miles per hour have Allen’s Hummingbirds been clocked diving?

Smell the center of a sunflower... does it make you think of s’mores? Try again... do you smell chocolate raspberry?

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Activity 6

Spot the Differences

Can you spot the 8 differences in this marine life mural?
You’ll find the answers on the back cover.
Activity 7

TIDEPOOL TRIVIA

Tidepools are miniature ecosystems brimming with life. Hundreds of organisms call this area where the land meets the sea their home and they all have special adaptations to survive. Do you know what some of those adaptations might be? See if you can answer the questions below. Turn the page upside down for the answers.

1. What do we call an animal that eats other animals?
2. What can a sea star do when it loses an arm?
3. What animal looks like a flower and waves its sticky tentacles around to catch food?
4. What animal moves inside the abandoned shell of a sea snail?
5. What animal squirts ink to distract and confuse a predator?
6. What does a shore crab do when it gets too big for its shell?

Draw a picture of your favorite tidepool animal.

Answers: 1/Carnivore, 2/Grow another, 3/Sea Anemone, 4/Hermit Crab, 5/Octopus, 6/Molt or shed
Activity 8

Coastal Animal Word Search

See if you can find the following coastal wildlife hidden below.
Search up, down, sideways, and diagonally.
You’ll find the answers on the back cover.

Gray Whale
Humpback
Orca
Sea Lion
Harbor Seal
Osprey
Leopard Shark
Garibaldi
Sea Star
Mussel
Hermit Crab
Activity 9

Coloring the Cottage

Find Cottage #46 at the edge of the sand near the Beachcomber Café. Built originally as a store, it then became a soda fountain (serving French fries and ice cream), an art studio and is now an art exhibit space. Do you like the pastel color? What color will you “paint” this cottage?
So, there you have it! You have explored from the mountains to the sea. You have seen animals on land and in the ocean. You have learned about how California State Parks serve as living laboratories to understand and protect our local animals and plants.

**ANSWERS**

**ACTIVITY 6**

![Activity 6 Answer](image)

**ACTIVITY 8**

![Activity 8 Answer](image)

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