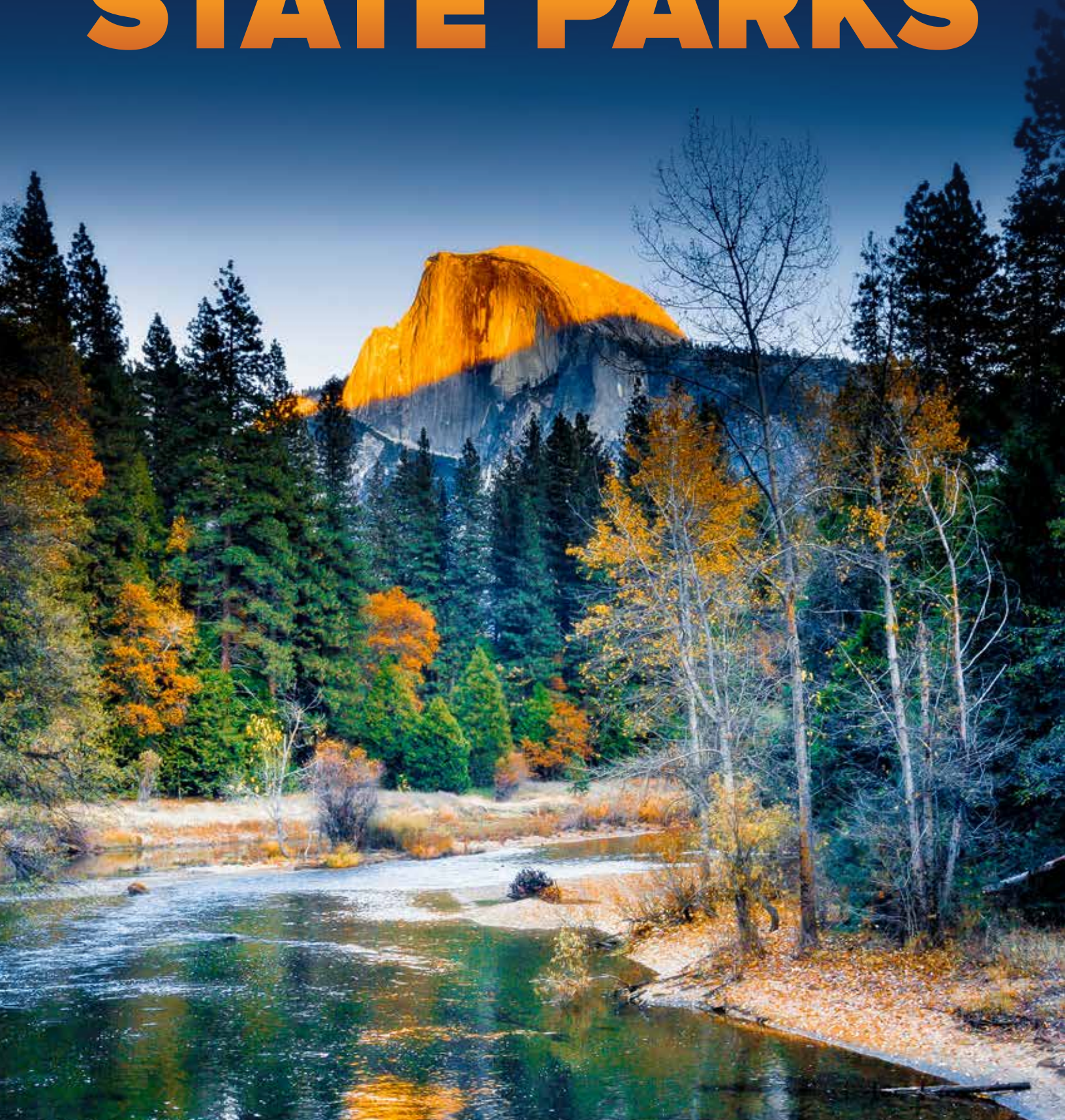


THE CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE CELEBRATES

STATE PARKS



ACTIVITY BOOK

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From the Pacific Ocean to the mountains to the desert, California's state parks are as diverse as its residents. In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant, bequeathing Yosemite to the state – 52 years before the establishment of the National Park Service. While Yosemite is currently a national park, it began as California's first state park.

Over the years, the California Legislature, together with the California Department of Parks and Recreation and countless generations of Californians, has worked to preserve and protect some of the most beautiful lands in the state for everyone in the world to enjoy.

A new Federal program provides every 4th grader, or age equivalent free-choice learner in the United States, a one-year pass allowing free admission to national parks for the student and their family.

Visit **everykidinapark.gov** for more information.

Take time to explore the natural wonders that state and national parks have to offer. For more information, visit **parks.ca.gov**.

For more information about the National Park Service, visit **nps.gov**.

For information on local issues or if you have questions, contact the district office – the office is here for you.



PRESERVING CALIFORNIA'S SPECIAL PLACES FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE





California's First State Park: Yosemite

IN THE SIERRA NEVADA, EAST OF MODESTO

In 1864 President Lincoln signed the Yosemite Grant, giving the land to the State of California, making Yosemite California's first state park. Twenty-six years later, in 1890, naturalist John Muir's efforts came to fruition when the park was expanded to include the surrounding mountains. At this point, Congress created Yosemite National Park, currently managed by the National Park Service. Now almost 750,000 acres in size, Yosemite's waterfalls, meadows, and stunning mountain vistas remain some of the most popular – and scenic – in the world.

California's Oldest State Park: Big Basin Redwoods State Park

NORTH OF SANTA CRUZ

Established in 1902, Big Basin's original 3,800 acres have been increased over the years to over 18,000 acres today. More than half of the park is comprised of old-growth redwood and recovering redwood forest. It is home to the largest continuous stand of ancient Coast Redwoods south of San Francisco. Some of these trees are as tall as 300 feet and up to 2,000 years old. It is a popular site for camping and hiking, with over 81 miles of trails, and also includes waterfalls and a wide range of animal and plant habitats.





Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park

ON THE WEST SHORE OF LAKE TAHOE

Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park is one of many state parks around Lake Tahoe, the largest alpine lake in North America. Its 2,500 acres of forested mountains rise from the shore of the lake, and include wildflower-filled meadows, morains, creeks and trails. It is the only state park in the Sierra Nevada that operates recreational facilities throughout the winter; the park's 11 miles of partially-groomed ski and snowshoe trails have been popular since they were the site of Olympic events in 1960.



California State Railroad Museum

SACRAMENTO

The California State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento is a tribute to the nation's first transcontinental railroad, which was completed in 1869 and linked California to the rest of the United States. The railroad was built with the labor of thousands of immigrants from China, Ireland and other nations.



McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park

EAST OF REDDING, NEAR BURNEY

Established in the 1920s, McArthur-Burney is the second-oldest state park. The park itself includes over 900 acres of woodland, streams, and lake shoreline. Camping, fishing, hiking, boating and horseback riding are all popular activities. Burney Falls, at the entrance to the park, is one of the few waterfalls in the state that flows year-round.

Fun Facts About California State Parks



Smallest

At only .11 acre, **WATTS TOWERS OF SIMON RODIA STATE HISTORIC PARK** in Los Angeles is taller than it is wide! The park has 17 sculptures, including two towers nearly 100 feet tall built by Italian immigrant Simon Rodia. He spent over 30 years building this tribute to his new home country using pipes, rods and discarded materials that he found.



Largest

At 600,000 acres, **ANZA-BORREGO DESERT STATE PARK** covers a massive area of desert east of San Diego. The park is home to animals like roadrunners, golden eagles, kit foxes, mule deer, big-horn sheep, iguanas, chuckwallas and the red diamond rattlesnake. After a rainy winter, this park is a great place to see wildflowers.



Most Visited in Southern California

CRYSTAL COVE STATE PARK is one of Orange County's largest remaining examples of open space and natural seashore. This park has 2,400 acres of backcountry hillsides and canyons and 3.2 miles of beach, including tidepools with purple shore crabs, sea hares and sea anemones. There are also 46 historically preserved cottages from the 1930s and '40s.



Most Visited in Northern California

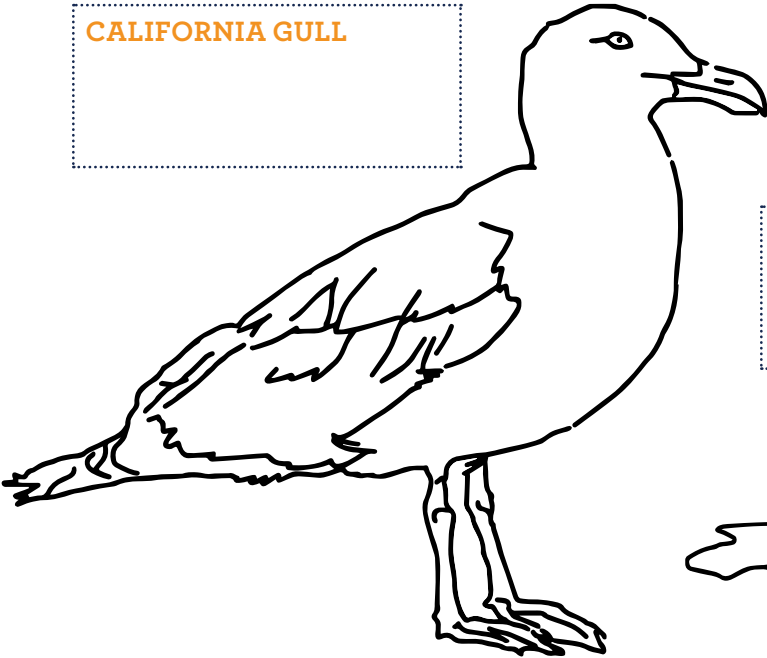
More than 600 miles north of Crystal Cove, **MENDOCINO HEADLANDS STATE PARK** is a great example of the rugged coastline that defines most of Northern California. Miles of trails wind along the cliffs, and on clear days visitors can often watch the migration of gray whales.

Match the Animal to its Habitat

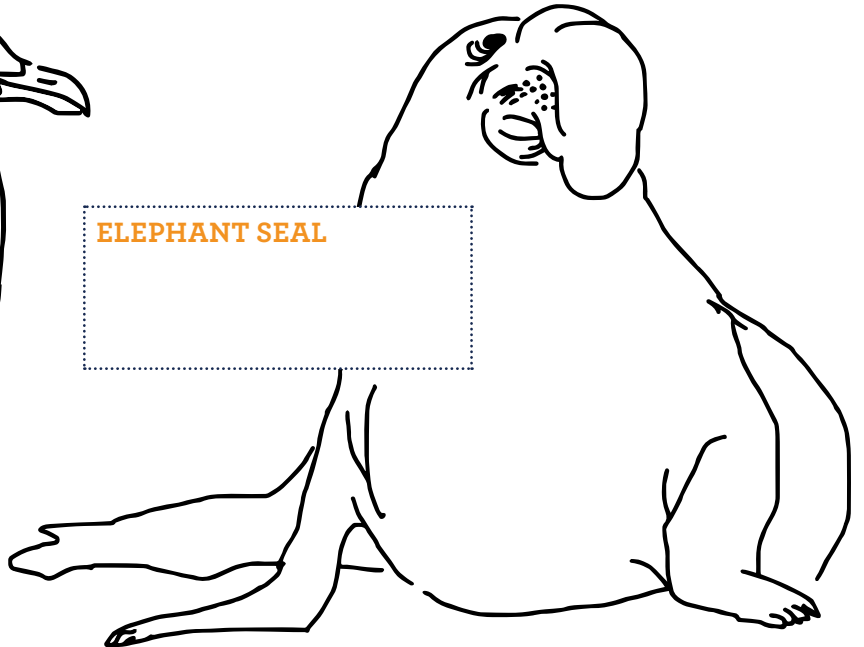
California is home to 770 native wildlife species. Many of them can be found in state parks. Which of the parks on the map opposite does each of these animals live in?

Write your answers in the white boxes & color!

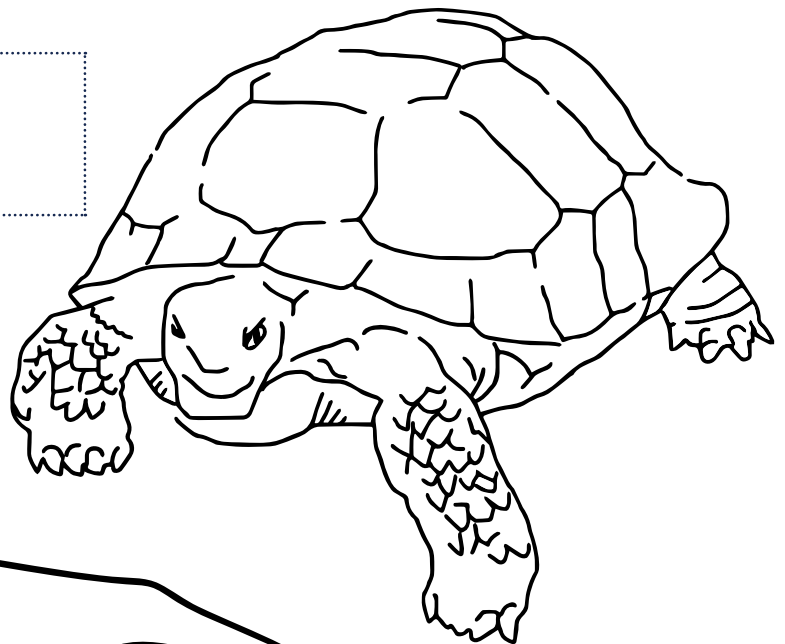
CALIFORNIA GULL



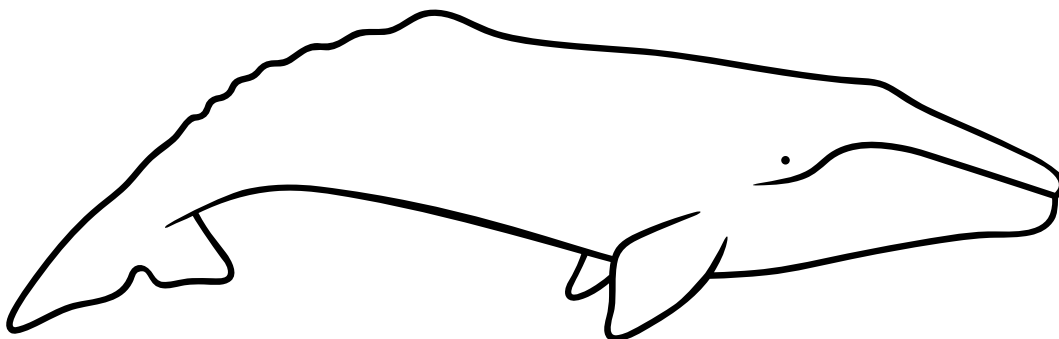
ELEPHANT SEAL



DESERT TORTOISE



GRAY WHALE



Other Wildlife in California State Parks

California State Parks are home to a rich variety of wildlife.

Species include mammals like the mule deer, black bear, mountain lion, coyote, gray fox, western gray and California ground squirrels, black-tailed jackrabbit, striped skunk and sea otter. Birds include the California quail, Steller's jay, common raven, killdeer, ring-billed gull, mallard, brown pelican, red-tailed hawk and turkey vulture. There are also amphibians and reptiles: the Pacific tree frog, western pond turtle, western fence lizard, common garter snake and western rattlesnake, not to mention many varieties of fish.

A few are shown here – can you name them?

The map shows the following locations with green checkmarks:

- Mendocino Headlands** (Northwest coast)
- Mono Lake** (Central-eastern region)
- Año Nuevo** (Central coast)
- Saddleback Butte** (Southwest region)

Numbered images of wildlife:

- 1**: Mule deer head with antlers.
- 2**: Pacific tree frog.
- 3**: Common garter snake.
- 4**: Gray fox.
- 5**: Black bear head.
- 6**: Sea otter.
- 7**: Brown pelican.
- 8**: Bighorn sheep head with horns.

ANSWERS 1 mule deer, 2 Pacific tree frog, 3 common garter snake, 4 gray fox, 5 black bear, 6 sea otter, 7 brown pelican, 8 bighorn sheep

Historic Preservation

In addition to preserving natural settings, State Parks make many of the state's important historical sites available to visitors.



Old Town San Diego State Historic Park

This park preserves San Diego as it existed during California's transition from Spanish to Mexican rule in 1822, and to American rule in 1848.

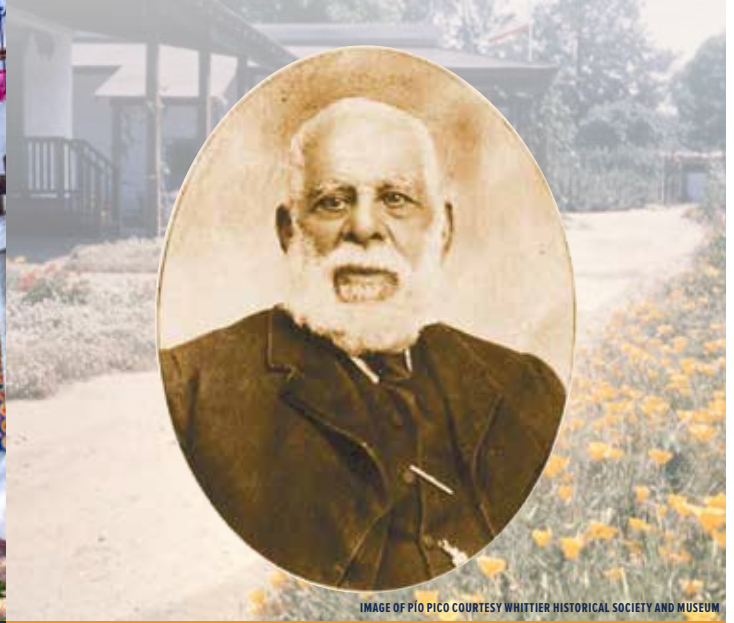


IMAGE OF PÍO PICO COURTESY WHITTIER HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Pío Pico State Historic Park

This park preserves the home of Pío Pico, the last governor of California during Mexican rule, who later served on the LA City Council after the transition to American rule.



Angel Island State Historic Park

From 1910 to 1940, thousands of Chinese and other immigrants were processed at Angel Island. Poems carved by the detained can still be seen inside the island's immigration station.



Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park

In the southern San Joaquin Valley, former slave-turned-Navy officer Allen Allensworth created the first town in California founded, financed and governed by African-Americans.

Fill-in-the-Blank based on facts from previous pages

1. President _____ granted Yosemite Valley and Mariposa Grove to the state of California in 1864.
2. The oldest park still in the California State Park System is _____.
3. The trees in Big Basin Redwoods State Park are up to _____ years old and _____ feet tall.
4. In 1869, the nation's first _____ was completed, connecting California with the rest of the United States.
5. California's smallest state park is _____.
6. Golden eagles, kit foxes, bighorn sheep and iguanas can all be found in _____ State Park.
7. Gray Whales can often be seen migrating off the coast of _____ State Park.
8. Before it was part of the United States, California was governed by the countries of _____ and _____.
9. The last governor of California before American rule was _____.
10. From 1910 to 1940, thousands of immigrants from _____ and other countries were processed at Angel Island.



Senator Thomas J. Umberg

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