

Nature Bowl 2022: Family Challenge



Nature Bowl Family Challenge 2022

Welcome California Nature Family!

Nature is calling! And we are delighted your family is answering. Thank you for signing up to play in California's Nature Bowl 2022: Family Challenge!

Within this packet, you will find everything you need to participate in this fun and educational competition.

Nature Bowl was started nearly 35 years ago in the North Central Region by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and its partners. The event's goal is to connect students with the natural world around them.

The Nature Bowl Family Challenge was initiated during the pandemic. The program was so popular, the department has decided to continue the event, moving it to the summer so all families have a chance to get out in nature and participate!



Nature Bowl Family Challenge 2022

Let the Games Begin!

The goal of this year's Nature Bowl competition is to get California families outside—in your backyard, neighborhood and/or local nature area—for some summer outdoor adventure!

Work with your family and friends to complete some or all of these enjoyable and exciting activities:

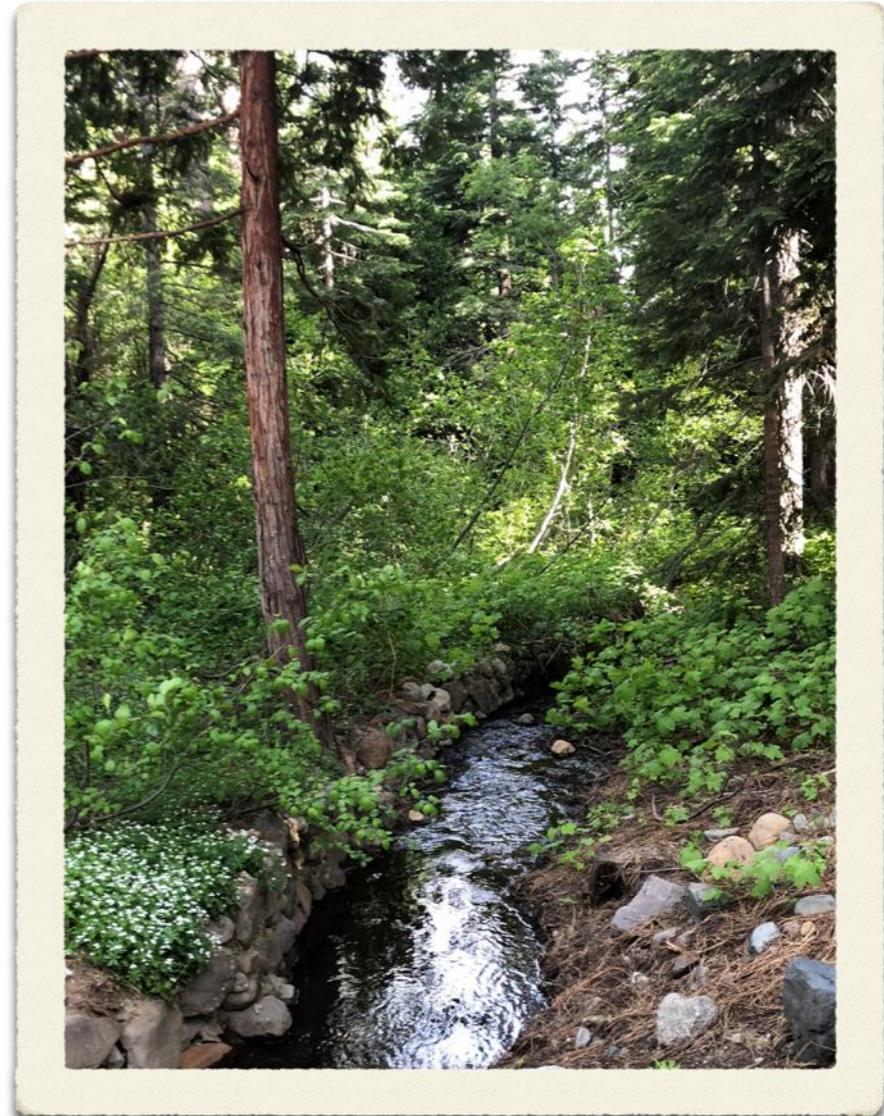
1. Complete the Scavenger Hunt Safari
2. Create your own Family Scavenger Hunt Safari
3. Extra Credit: Catalog your findings

Share the fun on social media!
#NatureBowlChallenge2022

The contest deadline for entries is August 31, 2022.

Please mail your entry to:
Nature Bowl 2022-Family Challenge
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
1701 Nimbus Road
Rancho Cordova, California 95670

Or email your entry to: genelle.treaster@wildlife.ca.gov



Scavenger Hunt Safari

Part 1

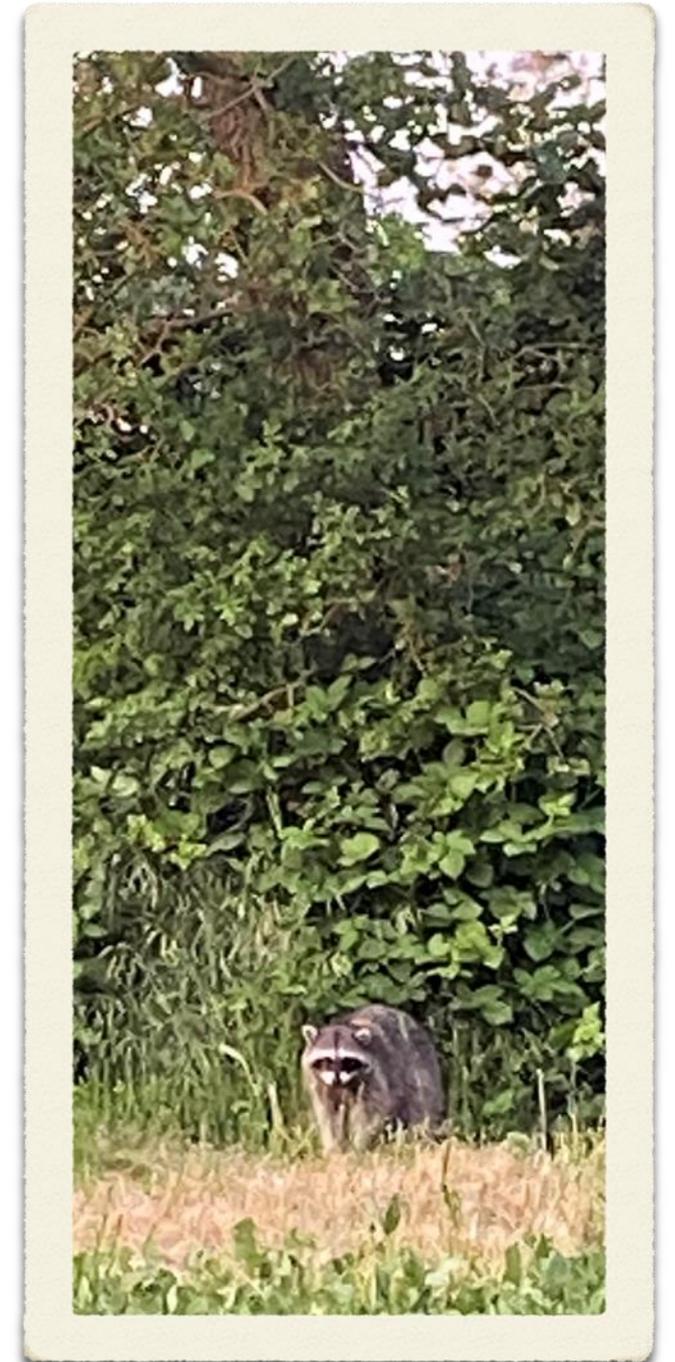
- Challenge yourself to a Scavenger Hunt Safari—in your backyard, neighborhood and/or local nature site.
- Record each item you find on the Scavenger Hunt form.
- Try to use a different found item for each hunt item.

Part 2

- Create your own Family Scavenger Hunt Safari.
- Make sure the items you include are natural (rather than human-made).
- Use the form provided; add more pages if necessary.

Share your Scavenger Hunt fun by posting photos on social media!

- Use [#NatureBowlChallenge2022](#)



Nature Bowl 2022 Scavenger Hunt Safari

Look for the following 10 words in real life nature--in your backyard, neighborhood or local wild area. Find something that best illustrates each word. Describe, photograph or draw each item found. Use additional paper, if needed.

	Date:	What I saw:	Where:	Why I chose it:	Observer:
Bird					
Plant					
Insect					
Water					
Herbivore					
Carnivore					
Nocturnal					
Pollinator					
Predator					
Prey					

My Family's Scavenger Hunt Safari

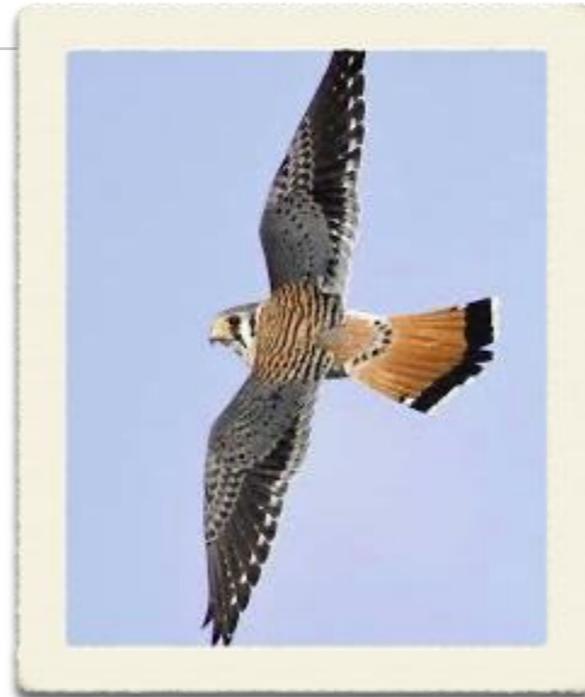
Create your own scavenger hunt with 10 real life nature items--in your backyard, neighborhood or local wild area. Practice your hunt with your family and friends. Describe, photograph or draw each item found. Use additional paper, if needed.

	Date:	What I saw:	Where:	Why I chose it:	Observer:
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					
10.					

Extra Credit

Catalog your findings like a scientist!

1. Determine whether each species you found is Native or Non-native to California.
2. Determine whether each species you found is a Generalist or Specialist.
3. Use the glossary for definitions. Look it up, if needed.
4. Write 1-2 sentences summarizing your findings.



Wildlife Viewing Tips

- Keep your pets at or inside home
- Sit down somewhere comfortable
- Avoid making too much noise
- Try to blend into your surroundings
- Be patient and respectful
- Use all your senses to listen and look for wildlife
- Stay a safe distance from and do not approach wildlife
- Avoid sensitive habitats, such as nests and dens
- Use binoculars and field guides
- Wildlife is most active at dawn and dusk
- Find edges of different habitats, or ecotones, where wildlife is most plentiful
- Don't forget to notice the micro-world of insects
- Enjoy yourself and be happy



Resources

Nature Bowl Partners:

American River Conservancy www.arconservancy.org

CDFW-Nimbus Fish Hatchery wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Hatcheries/Nimbus

New Melones Lake www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/newmelones/

Placer Nature Center placernaturecenter.org

Sacramento Audubon Society www.sacramentoaudubon.org

Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge www.fws.gov/refuge/stone_lakes/

Sutter County Resource Conservation District www.suttercd.specialdistrict.org

Yolo Basin Foundation yolobasin.org

Nature websites:

Ask Nature <http://asknature.org/>

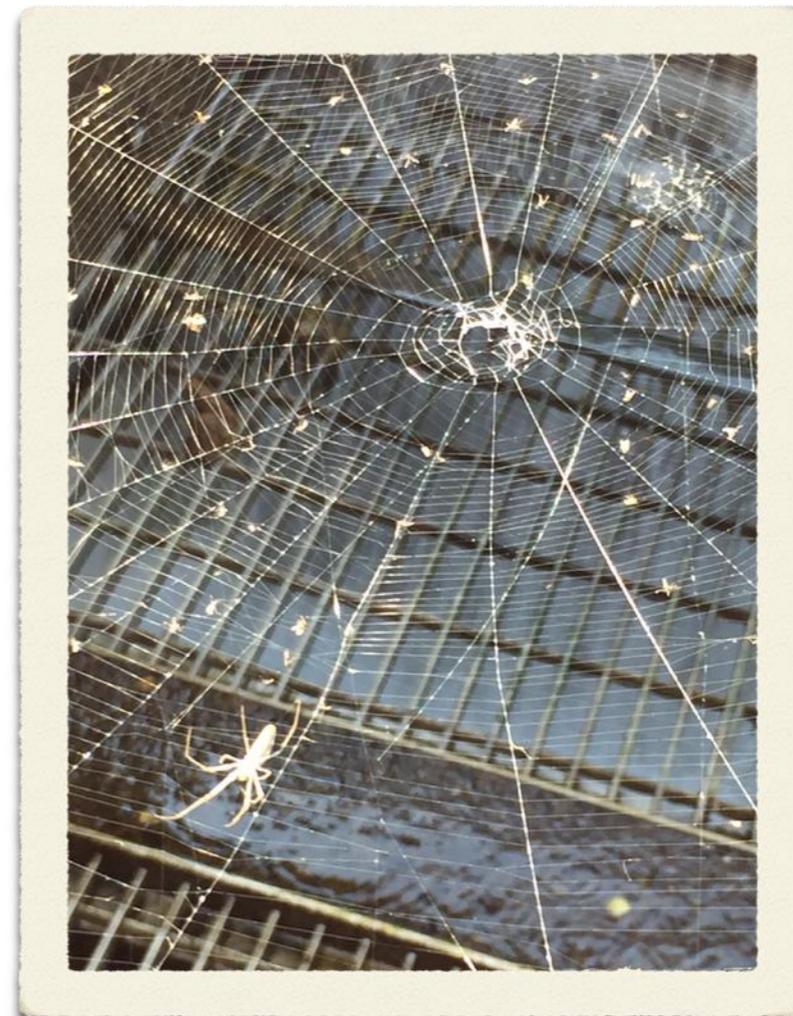
California Academy of Sciences <https://www.calacademy.org>

California Regional Environmental Education Community CREEC.org

Project Wild <https://www.projectwild.org>

Nature Bowl coordinator:

genelle.treaster@wildlife.ca.gov



Glossary



Abiotic: Not alive, or not derived from living organisms.

Adapted: Living organisms change over time to become best suited, or adapted, to their specific environment.

Amphibian: Cold-blooded vertebrates. Adults breathe air with lungs and through moist skin and live on land and in water.

Aquatic: Growing, living in and/or associated with water.

Bird: A warm-blooded vertebrate covered with feathers and having wings.

Biodiversity: The variety and abundance of different species of plants and animals. (Biological diversity)

Biotic: Of, or relating to, life and/or living organisms.

Camouflage: An adaptation that enhances chances of survival for both predators and prey by allowing wildlife and plants to blend stealthy in their environment.

Carnivore: A meat eating wild animal.

Decomposer: Those invertebrates that help break down dead organisms, so they can be used by plants.

Diurnal: A species active during the day.

Flora: Plant life.

Fauna: Animal life.

Generalist: A species that lives in, and can adapt to, many types of habitats. (Examples: American crow, coyote)

Habitat: A defined place, or type of place, where an organism lives. Meets plants and wildlife essential needs by providing suitable food, water, shelter and space.

Herbivore: A plant eating wild animal.

Insect: A small invertebrate animal.

Invertebrate: An animal with no true backbone.

Mammal: A warm-blooded vertebrate animal with hair or fur, live birth and milk for young.

Native: A species from and adapted to California.

Nocturnal: A species active during the night.

Non-native: A species that was originally from somewhere else, but now resides in California (usually invasive and harmful to native species).

Omnivore: An animal with a varied diet of both plants and animals.

Photosynthesis: The amazing process by which plants make simple sugars, or food, in the presence of sunlight, water and carbon dioxide.

Plant: A tree, vine, shrub, or herb that uses the energy of the sun to make their food, called photosynthesis.

Pollinator: A species that transfers pollen within, or between, flowers to fertilize plants, enabling them to produce seed and fruit.

Predator: An animal that seeks, kills and eats other animals.

Prey: Animals killed and eaten by other animals.

Raptor: A bird of prey.

Reptile: A cold-blooded, air-breathing vertebrate with scales or bony plates covering the skin and true claws on the toes.

Specialist: A species that can only survive in certain habitats it has already adapted to. (Examples: sandhill crane, Western meadowlark)

Terrestrial: Of, or referring to, living or growing on dry land.

Vertebrate: An animal with a backbone.

Water: The liquid that descends from clouds, forms rivers, streams, lakes and seas. Essential to life and all living things.