

# SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

Activity Book

Explore, Learn, Protect Our River

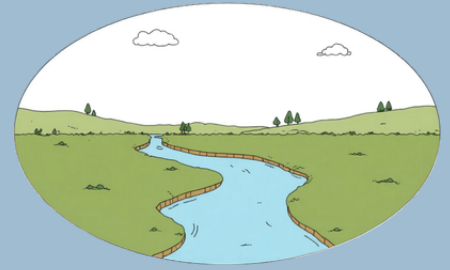


FOR AGES 5-12

CREATED BY: EMILIANO FAJARDO PEDRAZA

# WELCOME TO THE RIVER

Let's learn about the San Joaquin River and why it's important!



## EXPLORER:

### What is the San Joaquin River?

The San Joaquin River is one of the most important rivers in California. It flows through the Central Valley and provides water for plants, animals, farms, and communities. Many living things depend on the river to survive.

### Why is the river important?

The river helps create homes for the fish, birds, and other wildlife. It also helps plants grow and gives people places to walk, explore, and enjoy nature. A healthy river supports both the environment and our communities allowing both to thrive.

### How can we help the river?

We can help the river by picking up trash, saving water, planting trees, and respecting wildlife. Helping to protect the river today means it will stay clean and healthy for the future.

# SJRC'S MISSION

**The San Joaquin River Conservancy works to enhance and restore the river and surrounding habitats and develop lands for public access.**



**The San Joaquin River Conservancy is a California state agency created to develop, manage, and restore the SJRC Parkway**

**SJRC works to protect land along the river, restore habitats for plants and animals, and care for natural and cultural resources.**

**The Conservancy also creates safe places for recreation, education, and outdoor fun, while helping other partners protect land for the future.**

# PEOPLE OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER

The San Joaquin River has long been home to Yokuts people, including the Dumna and Gashow. These communities carry deep knowledge of this land—its plants, waters, and seasons. Life here is rooted in relationship: with the river, with the plants, and with all living beings. That relationship continues today.

## DAILY LIFE

Along the river, people gathered food and medicine, fished the waters, and hunted with care and respect. Plants like tule, willow, and deergrass were woven into baskets, each one holding knowledge passed through generations.

Acorns were ground along the river for food, and daily life was guided by balance, respect, and taking only what was needed.



## TOOLS & SKILLS

Tools were made from what the land provided—stone for grinding, bone and wood for fishing, and plants like tule and deergrass for weaving.

These were not just tools, but expressions of skill, patience, and cultural knowledge.



## STILL WITH US TODAY

- Many of the same plants used by Yokuts and Mono people can still be found along the San Joaquin River today.
- Basket weaving traditions continue, with tightly woven baskets once used to carry water and store food.
- Tule was also used to build boats, allowing people to travel across rivers and wetlands.

## YOKUTS

Yokuts people understand that we are not separate from nature—we are part of it.

Animals, plants, and water are relatives, and caring for them is part of caring for ourselves.

This way of life continues, and many of the same plants and traditions remain present along the river today.



# K'UIK'UI RANCH: A NAME WITH MEANING

## FROM BALL RANCH TO K'UIK'UI RANCH

K'uiik'ui Ranch is one of the many places cared for by the San Joaquin River Conservancy. In 2025, the name was changed from Ball Ranch to K'uiik'ui Ranch to reflect and honor the living cultural connections to this land.

K'uiik'ui (pronounced Kweek-wee) is the name of a small duck in Yokuts traditional stories. In these stories, the duck plays an important role in the beginning of the world. The name was chosen to represent a new beginning and to honor the deep cultural roots of the land.



## WHAT MAKES K'UIK'UI RANCH SPECIAL TODAY

- K'uiik'ui Ranch is part of the San Joaquin River Parkway, where nature and history are protected.
- Wetlands and river habitats here provide homes for many plants and animals.
- Visitors can explore, learn, and take part in caring for this land.

## YOKUTS CONNECTION TO LAND

Yokuts people have lived in the Central Valley for thousands of years and continue to care for and learn from this land today. Their knowledge reflects a balance with the river, plants, and animals—helping keep the land healthy across generations.

## YOU ARE PART OF THE STORY!

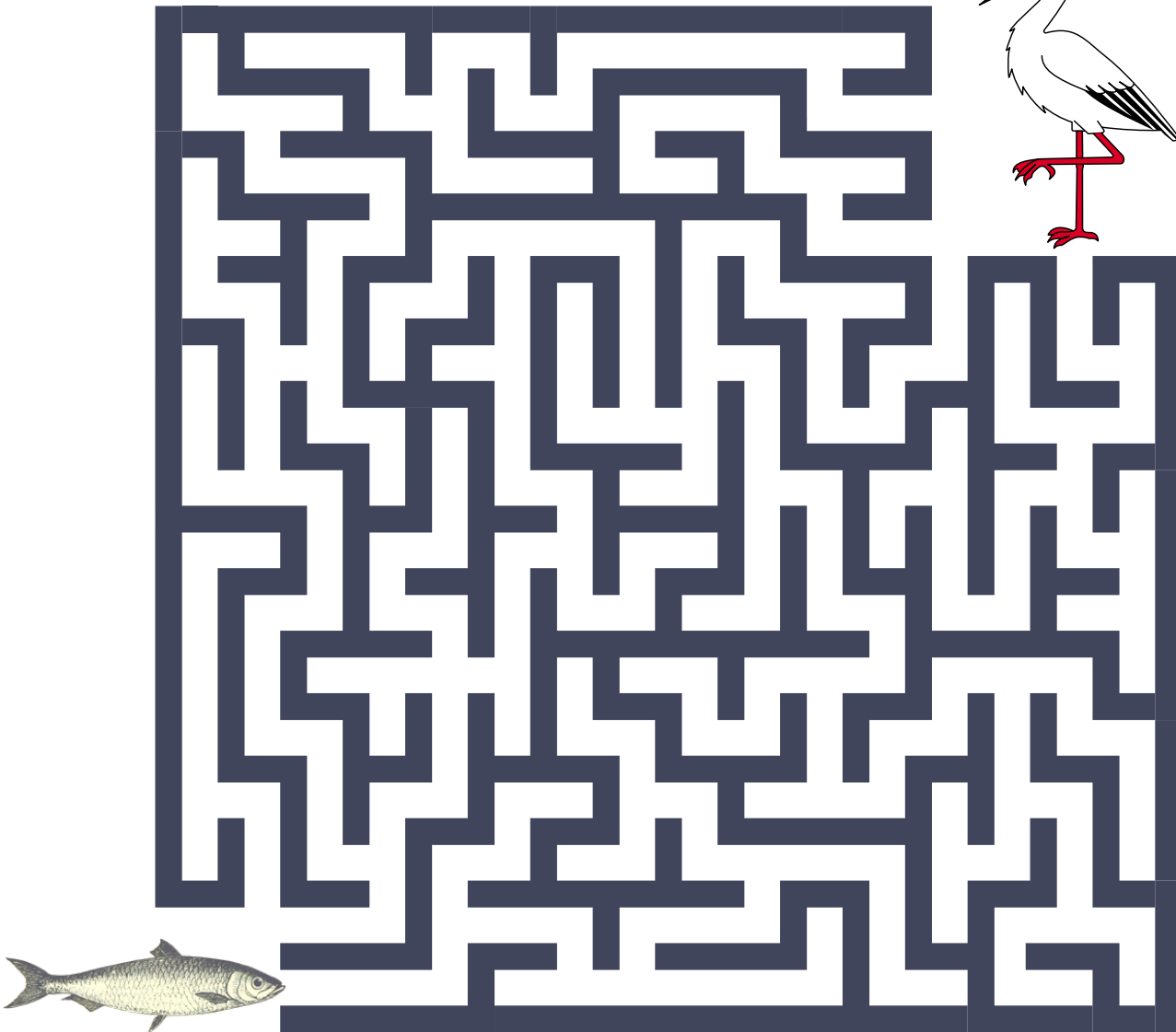
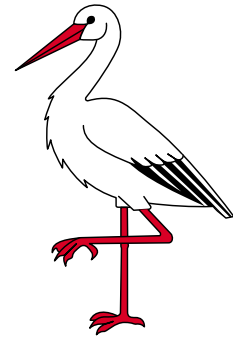
When you visit places like K'uiik'ui Ranch, you are walking on land with a long and living history. By learning about the river and caring for nature, you help protect this special place for the future.



# EGRET MAZE

Help the Egret find its food!

Snowy Egrets live near rivers and wetlands. They eat fish and insects and help keep the ecosystem balanced. A healthy river means healthy birds!



**Fun Fact: K'ui'kui Ranch has a 142-foot-by-135-foot Snowy Egret Maze made from logs!**





# Word Search

## Restore the River

The San Joaquin River provides homes for plants and animals and places for people to enjoy nature.

We can help restore the river by keeping it clean, protecting habitats, and helping as volunteers.

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

RIVER

TRAIL

FRIANT COVE

FRESNO

POND

RESTORE

MADERA

REUSE

CLEAN



























HABITAT

VOLUNTEER

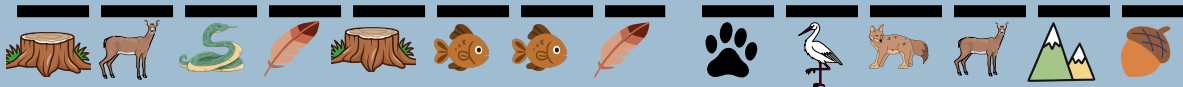
EGRET

# SAN JOAQUIN RIVER CONSERVANCY

## CODE BREAKER

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

“Each symbol stands for a letter, use the chart to decode the words”



! !



**Circle the place you'd most like to visit!**

Hint: These are Properties owned by SJRC!



# Fill in the blank!

CLEAN	PLANTS	EGRET	RIVER
PROTECT	HABITAT	WATER	ANIMALS

## Word Bank

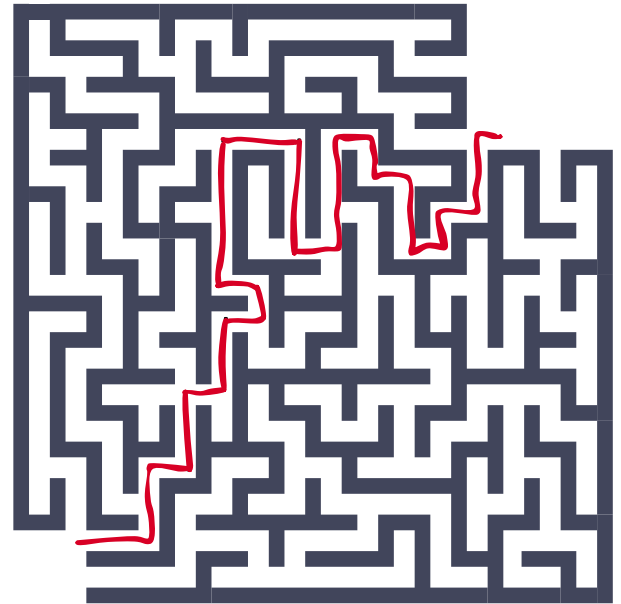
1. SJRC works to restore, maintain and improve the San Joaquin \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Rivers give \_\_\_\_\_ to plants, animals, and people.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ river helps wildlife stay safe and healthy.
4. Many \_\_\_\_\_ live near the river like birds, fish, and turtles.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ along the river help keep the river healthy.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a home for plants and animals.
7. We can \_\_\_\_\_ the river by not littering and staying on trails.
8. The animal in SJRC's logo is known as \_\_\_\_\_.



# Answer Key

WILDWOOD NATIVE  
PARK  
SYCAMORE ISLAND  
K'UIK'UI RANCH  
LEDGER ISLAND

1. River
2. Water
3. Clean
4. Animals
5. Plants
6. Habitat
7. Protect
8. Egret



RIVER	TRAIL	FRIANT COVE	FRESNO
POND	RESTORE	MADERA	REUSE
CLEAN	HABITAT	VOLUNTEER	EGRET



---

# Junior River Steward

This certifies that



\_\_\_\_\_ has completed the San Joaquin River Conservancy  
Activity Book!



As a River Steward I pledge to help take care of nature  
by keeping the river clean, respecting wildlife, and  
protecting habitats



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
**SAN JOAQUIN RIVER  
CONSERVANCY**

**Stop by our office!**

Bring your completed activity book to our office on the river to receive a free sticker and learn more about the San Joaquin River.



10637 N LANES ROAD  
FRESNO, CA 93730

Scan to learn more & visit us! →



Instagram: @sanjoaquinriverconservancy\_ca

Facebook: San Joaquin River Conservancy

Email: info@sjrc.ca.gov

Phone: 559-287-7282