



CondorKids Field Journal



Fun learning
for children
and adults!



Presented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Urban Wildlife Refuge Conservation Program in partnership with the Santa Barbara Zoo and a special thanks to the Friends of California Condors Wild and Free.



CLICK the image to see biologists working with wild condors.

Get ready to start your journey into Condor Country with help from Park Rangers and Biologists with the California Condor Recovery Program and the CondorKids Rangers in this Field Journal. As you visit endangered California condors at Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge, and the Santa Barbara Zoo, keep track of your adventure with this CondorKids Field Journal.

Follow the instructions to find pictures and videos and look for the blue spaces you can fill in!



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Super Soarers



What's a California condor? I've never seen one before.

The California condor is the largest land bird in North America, and one of the most endangered species in the whole world! Endangered species are plants and animals that are at risk of no longer living on the planet, going extinct.

CLICK on the image to check out some soaring condors.



Write or draw some your ideas below.

I think California condors are bigger than:

I think California condors are smaller than:

Draw or paste an image of something that shows the size of a California condor here:

Sizing Up a California Condor

CLICK the image and watch the video to start modeling the wingspan of a California condor.



Wow! The condor is a really big bird! Muy grande, yeah? Did you hear the different units of measurement in the video?

Write in the size of the condor's wingspan with different units here.

_____ feet _____ inches _____ meters

_____ centimeters _____ pieces of paper

_____ feet _____ inches _____ meters

_____ centimeters _____ pieces of paper

Materials: 10 pieces of copy paper (8.5" x 11")

Optional: tape, glue, paper clips, staples, measuring tape

Use your paper wingspan model to see how you and things around you size up.

What did you find that is bigger than a California condor? How tall are you in pieces of paper?

Awesome Adaptations



Look at some California condors by clicking the image and see what you notice. Condor biologists have to make careful observations all the time, too.

CLICK the image to check out condors up close.



A certain kind of animal—like a condor or a goldfish—is called a *species*. All California condors are the same *species*. Every *species* has different traits. Traits could be their feathers, feather color, beak, feet, and even some behaviors. Some of these traits, like condors' soaring, can help with survival. Those traits are called *adaptations*. Did you notice any traits or adaptations in the photos?

Time to fly!

CLICK the image to soar like a condor at Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge!



What do you notice in this picture? Write or draw different shapes, colors, texture, and whatever else catches your eye.

What adaptations do you think humans have?

Is eye color a trait or adaptation? Would it impact how a human would survive in the wild?

Does flapping or soaring take more energy? Why?

Soaring with Condors

Draw a line connecting each bird(wingspan) to how you think it flies:

Anna's Hummingbird: Less than ½ foot



Bald Eagle: 6 feet



FLAPPING

SOARING

Look at these different bird species and make a prediction about how they fly based on their wing size.



Turkey Vulture: 5 ½ feet



American Crow: 3 feet



A California condor weighs about 20lbs! How much do you think these other birds weigh? Write your predictions here:

Blank area for writing predictions.

The Chumash Condor Legend



Haku!
That is how
the Chumash
people say hello.

CLICK the image to visit the hilltops of Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge and hear the Chumash story about how the California condor or Pu' ya Wæt, as they say, came to be.



Create your own storyboard about any animal that you want in the panels below. Use the prompts to create your legend about how the species you pick came to be the way we know it today.

1. How did the animal and its habitat used to be?

2. What event happened that changed things?

3. How did the animal react to the event? This caused the animal to...

4. How was the animal changed? Now the animal looks or acts like...

5. Where can you find this animal today?

6. Why did you choose this animal? Why is this animal special to you?

CONDOR CONNECTIONS:

Species of Hopper Mountain



Let's learn about some other animal adaptations, and how some simple observations can help us make predictions about what an animal eats, like plants or other animals.



CLICK the image to see some models of some skulls of species you can find at Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge.

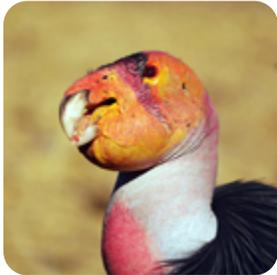
Draw or write some of the adaptations you notice in the video and in the photos for each species. Do you think the animal is mostly a predator or prey? Does it eat plants, meat, or both?



Coyote



Gray Fox



California Condor



American Crow



Golden Eagle



Mountain Lion



Bobcat



Mule Deer



Jackrabbit



American Black Bear

Do you think the animal is mostly a predator or prey? Does it eat plants, meat, or both?



CONDOR CONNECTIONS:

You Are What We Eat



My favorite food is vegetarian lasagna.



My favorite food is carne asada.

CLICK the image to watch some condors eating carrion. Warning, this video shows dead animals.



Use the drawing tools to connect each role to the matching short definition.

PREDATOR

PREY

CONSUMER

PRODUCER

CARNIVORE

OMNIVORE

HERBIVORE

SCAVENGER

OBLIGATE SCAVENGER

Eats plants and animals

Gets eaten by other species

Makes it's own food for energy

Sometimes eats dead things

Only eats plants

Hunter

Only eats dead things

Eats to get energy

Only eats meat

A Butcher's Beak

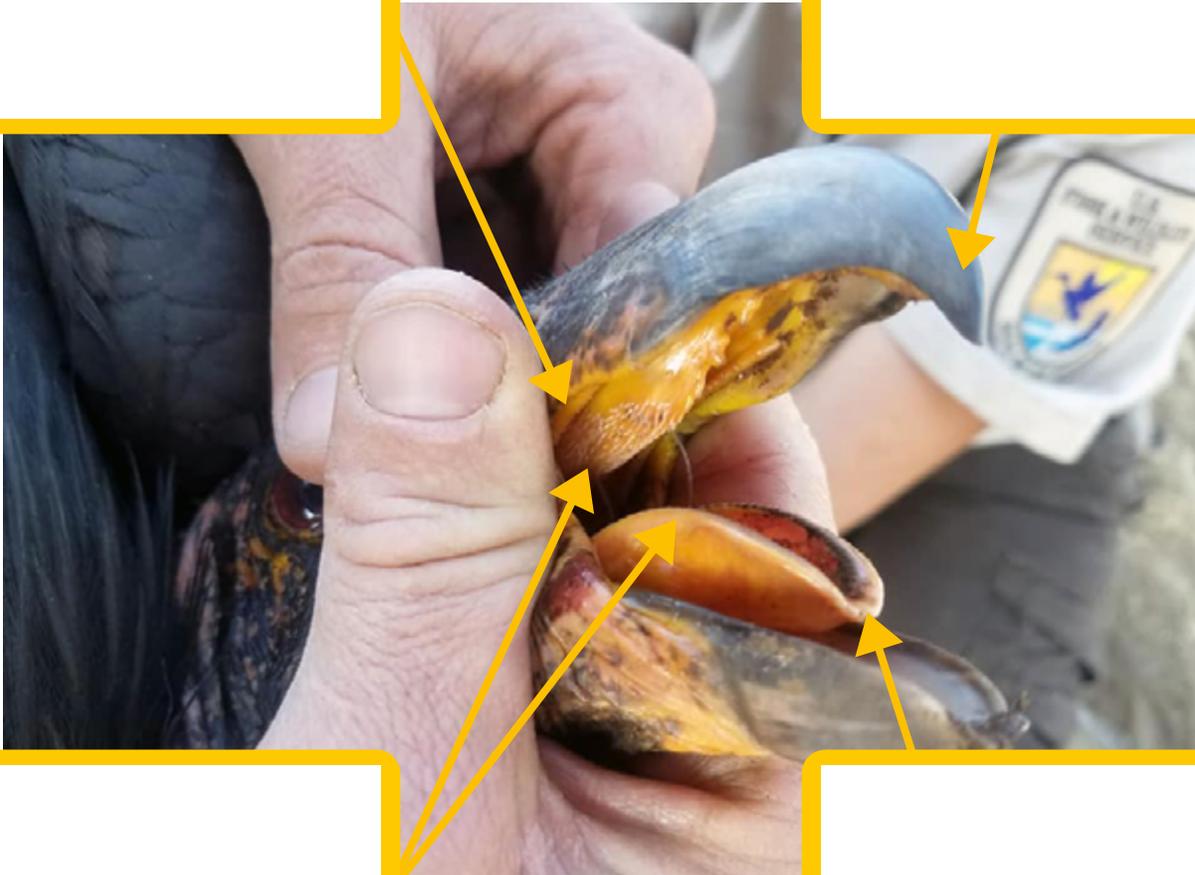
CLICK the image to learn about the amazing adaptations that the California condor's beak has evolved to help it survive.



Let's take a closer look at the California condor's adaptations.



Fill in each box with a description of that part of the beak, and how it helps a condor survive.



Condor Careers



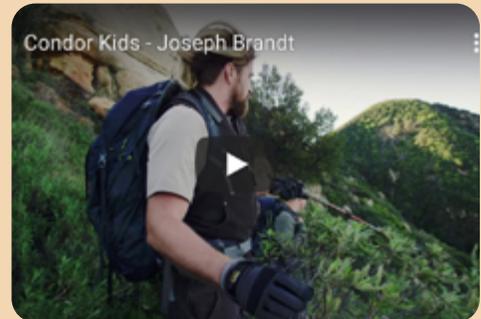
My grandma always tells me, "You need to have a good job!" Luckily, the conservation work I love, like saving condors, has a lot of good jobs!

Pretend you are 20 years in the future. You have a job with the California Condor Recovery Program. Write about or draw a picture of your day at work in condor conservation. Be sure to say who you work for and what your job title is.

CLICK the images and learn about different condor conservation careers. Which one do you want?



Condor Kids - Erin Arnold



Condor Kids - Joseph Brandt



Condor Kids - Stephanie Herrera



Condor Kids - Carol Hunsperger



Condor Kids - Julie Barnes



Condor Kids - Janet Hamber

The Condor's Egg by Jonathan London



CLICK The Condor's Egg book cover and read along from home with a condor conservationist at the LA Zoo, and Dolly, one of their amazing California condors.



This is one of my favorite books. Natural storms and predators can be scary for a condor chick, but did you know that microtrash is the scariest threat they face?

CLICK the image to learn about microtrash and how it impacts these young condors.



Draw or write your favorite part of the story here:

Why would a condor feed their chick microtrash?

Draw or write some examples of microtrash you see often:

LIVE! Condor Nest Monitoring

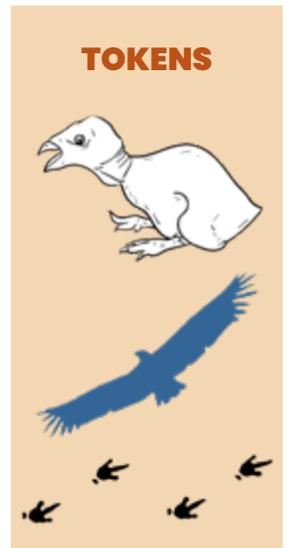


CLICK the images to watch the live wild California condors nest cams here in Southern California and up north near Big Sur and play Nest Cam Bingo.

Have fun!

Watch the video and click a box on your bingo card.

Both parents at the nest	Mother feeds chick	Father feeds chick	Chick wing begs	Chick wakes up
Chick plays with feathers	Chick plays with sticks	Parent stretches out their wings	Chick wiggles toes	Chick stretches wings out
Chick does "yoga" (stretches legs)	Watched for 10 minutes	FREE SPACE 	Chick mandibulates (practices using its beak)	No parents at the nest
Camera freezes or goes down	See a species other than condors	Completed nest monitoring data sheet	View other species live cam	You see microtrash in the nest
Chick is sleeping	Chick makes you laugh	Shared the live cam with someone	Chick goes to the "bathroom" (defecates)	Watched for 2 minutes



Bingo!
Condors are going live from their nests to your screen.



Microtrash Madness!



Let's go, and let's study microtrash where we live!



Keep the microtrash to use in an art project on the next page. Make sure you stay clean and safe.

For one week, keep track of all the trash you create at home. With adult permission, try to get outside and pick up trash around where you live. Keep track of the different types of trash you create and find here, then make a graph. Just like the condor scientists do!

Was all the trash in your study microtrash?

How could we make sure no new microtrash threatens condor chicks?

My Trash: Enter what you found in the table below.

MATERIAL TYPE	PIECES OF TRASH	PIECES OF MICROTRASH	TOTAL
Hard plastic			
Plastic film			
Food containers			
Metal			
Paper			
Wood			
Styrofoam			
Glass			
Other			

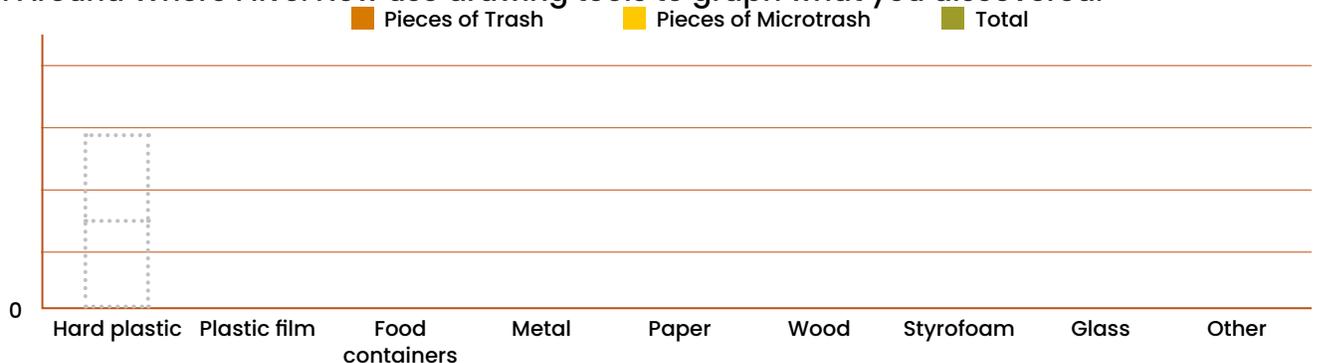
My Trash: Now use drawing tools to graph what you discovered.



Trash Around Where I live: Enter what you found in the table below.

MATERIAL TYPE	PIECES OF TRASH	PIECES OF MICROTRASH	TOTAL
Hard plastic			
Plastic film			
Food containers			
Metal			
Paper			
Wood			
Styrofoam			
Glass			
Other			

Trash Around Where I live: Now use drawing tools to graph what you discovered.



Microtrash Mosaics



Art is a great way to tell people about science.

CLICK the image to see condors and biologists at a wild condor nest cave.



All you need is a canvas, like a piece of old cardboard, and something to stick your microtrash to your canvas with like glue.

Super easy!



Lifelong Learners

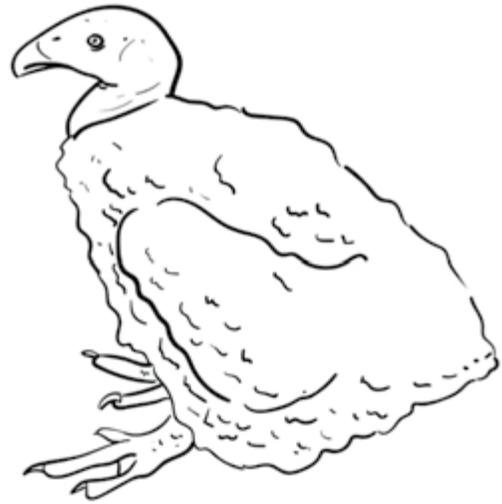
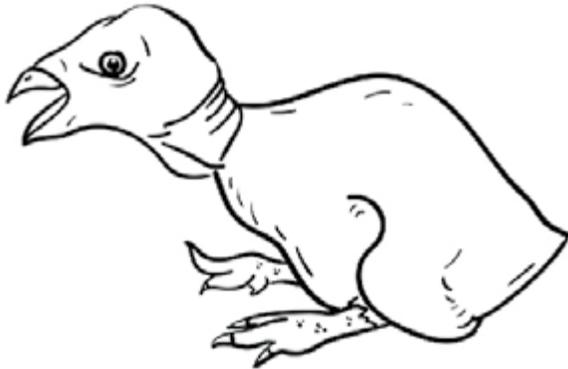


Just like all of you will grow into teenagers, adults, then senior citizens, California condors go through stages of life too.



CLICK the image to look at condors at different ages, then color in the illustrations to match each stage of life.

After you watch the video, color in the illustrations to match each stage of life.



When Did This Come From?



Condors have interacted with a lot of different groups of people, from the ancestors of the Chumash, over 10,000 years ago, to now with you today!

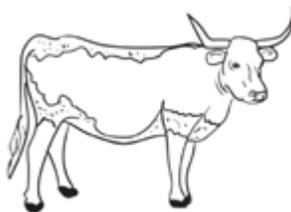


CLICK the image to watch a video.

Complete this last adventure at Bitter Creek National Wildlife Refuge, and then move on to become an official CondorKids Ranger.

You're almost there!

Write how many years ago you think these different groups showed up in California, then draw or write in the items in the video with the group of people you think it belongs to.



Why Are Condors Endangered?



What are the biggest threats to condor survival?

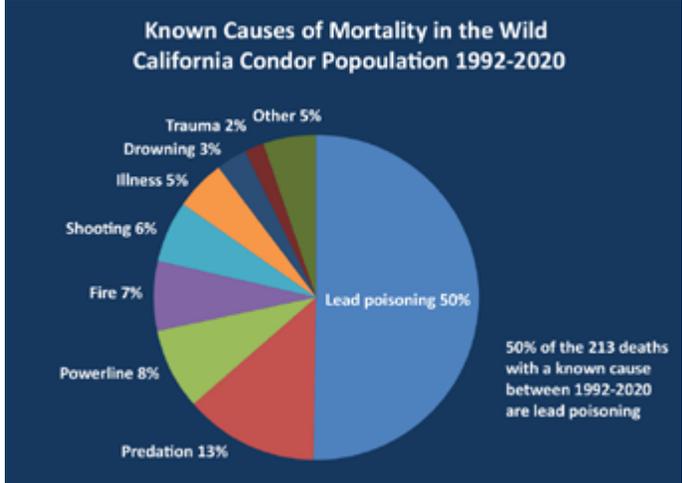
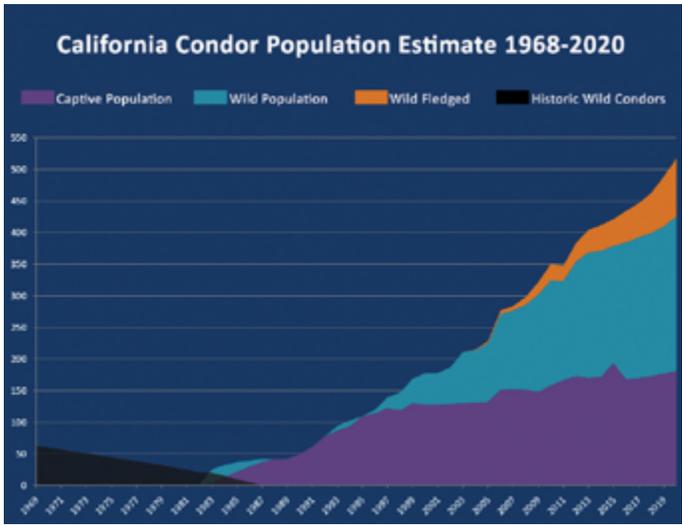
How can you and other people help save condors?

CLICK the DVD to watch the Condor's Shadow by Good Eye Films and see what we've been doing to save California condors. Password: Pitahsi



How many condors do you think we need in the population before we can say that we saved them?

How can conservation hunters and shooters help condors?



Official CondorKids Ranger Pledge

"I, _____, pledge to be a CondorKids Ranger. I will work to save the largest land bird in _____, with a _____ foot wingspan, and held sacred by the native _____ people for over _____ years—the California condor. I pledge to help condors by going outside to play in nature, and if I hunt, to only use _____ ammunition. I will always think about how I am connected to condors and nature. I am a conservationist, a CondorKids Ranger."



_____ Sign your name here



This certifies the signer is an Official United States Fish and Wildlife Service CondorKids Ranger.

Fill in the blanks, then raise your right hand and say this pledge out loud to become an official CondorKids Ranger. Start with your name.



Teachers can submit your journal to hoppermountain@fws.gov, and you will receive a unique CondorKids Ranger e-Badge!

Great job! If you want to learn even more about California condors, then check out the TimeLooper Xplore app! There, you'll find condors in virtual reality!



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The US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex are proud of our diverse partners within the California Condor Recovery Program. Find more information here!

www.fws.gov/refuge/hopper_mountain/partnerships.html

Audubon Society
Bureau of Land Management
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Native Plant Society
California State University Channel Islands
California State University Bakersfield
California State University San Luis Obispo
Carbon California
City of Fillmore
Centro de Investigacion Cientifica y de Educacion Superior de Ensenada (CICESE)
Chapultepec Zoo
Comision Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP)
Cornell University
Direccion General de Zoologicos
Friends of California Condors Wild and Free
Instituto Nacional de Ecologia
Los Angeles Zoo
Los Padres Forest Association
National Park Service

Oakland Zoo
Oregon Zoo
Peregrine Fund
San Diego Zoo
San Diego Zoo Safari Park
Santa Barbara Zoo
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
The Great Basin Institute
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, Angeles National Forest
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest
U.S. Geological Survey
University of California Davis
University of California Santa Cruz
University of California Santa Barbara
Ventura County
Ventana Wildlife Society
Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology
World Center for Birds of Prey



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