



# Bolsa Chica 'I Spy' Game

## Summer edition

What do you spy on the trails at Bolsa Chica?

### How to play:

1. Check off items as you find them.
2. Take a photo of the item if possible.
3. Stay on Trail!

### Can you find: (Note: Clues on the back!)

- Lizard (Western Side-blotched)



- Desert Cottontail Rabbit



- Great Blue Heron



- Reddish Egret



- Turkey Vulture



- Insect (Darkling beetle)



- Insect (Green Metallic Bee)



- Aquatic animal (Round Stingray)



- Bladderpod plant



- Southern Tarplant



Once you have found all the items, send us your favorite photo to [Erin@BCLandTrust.org](mailto:Erin@BCLandTrust.org) and we will share it on our social media! You can also download our free Bolsa Chica Coloring book for more educational fun from our website [www.BCLandTrust.org/Explore](http://www.BCLandTrust.org/Explore).

Optional: Send us a photo of your completed list with your name and address and we will send you a surprise!



Clues and more info on each item:

<p>Lizard (Western Side-blotched)</p>	<p>One of the most common lizards in the southwest, these colorful lizards are named for the dark blotch just behind their front legs. Males come in three colors, or morphs. Some have orange throats, some blue, and some yellow. Can you find all three colors? Watch along the edges of the trails to find them sunning themselves.</p>	<p>Insect (Darkling beetle)</p>	<p>You may see this flightless beetle doing a headstand in the middle of a trail. Why? Because that is their defense when they feel threatened – they stand on their heads with their behinds in the air and sometimes emit a foul odor. This gives them their nickname of “Stink Beetle.” This stink keeps them safe from being eaten.</p>
<p>Desert Cottontail Rabbit</p>	<p>Desert Cottontail Rabbits are small with brown-gray fur and large hind feet and ears. Their ears help keep them cool during hot weather. They live in a wide variety of habitats including the Coastal Sage Scrub habitat of Bolsa Chica. They are crepuscular, meaning they are active in the morning and evening. In the middle of the day, they hide in burrows or under the cover of the bushes.</p>	<p>Insect (Green Metallic Bee)</p>	<p>Did you know that California has around 1,600 native bee species? Unlike the large hives of honey bees, most native bees live solitary lives burrowing in the ground or in convenient spaces in and around plants. The Green Metallic Bee is small (~11mm) and a beautiful metallic jewel green. Sweat bees get their name because they like to land on people to sip their sweat for the salt content.</p>
<p>Great Blue Heron</p>	<p>It is hard to take a walk here without seeing a Great Blue Heron. In summer they fish in the wetlands and bays and hunt for gophers and snakes on the mesa. Sometimes they hunt close to the trails, either standing very still or moving in slow motion as they watch and wait to snag their prey. If you walk slowly and quietly you can observe them close-up and be surprised at their height which can reach 4.5 feet tall.</p>	<p>Aquatic animal (Round Stingray)</p>	<p>Round Stingrays are the most abundant ray in Southern California and can be spied in the waters around the bridges at Bolsa Chica. They may be hard to find because they hide under the sand or mud. The sting part of their name comes from the barb on their tails which they use for defense. This barb is made of similar material as our fingernails, but it is covered in a venomous mucus that causes intense pain.</p>
<p>Reddish Egret</p>	<p>With wings raised the Reddish Egret runs, hops, jumps, and dances in pursuit of fish in the shallow waters of Bolsa Chica. They have become more common at Bolsa Chica, but it is not considered part of their normal range. Look for them hunting in the bays during low tide, just look for the dancing bird.</p>	<p>Bladderpod</p>	<p>This evergreen bush produces lots yellow flowers almost all year round. These flowers are an important source of food for butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds when many of the other native plants go dormant in the summer heat. They get their name from the seed pod which looks like a bladder.</p>
<p>Turkey Vulture</p>	<p>Turkey Vultures are a year-round resident at Bolsa Chica. Look for them soaring over the mesa with their distinctive V-shape, perching in the dead trees, or gliding low along the bluff edge enjoying the thermals and using their sensitive sense of smell to locate a meal. Turkey Vultures eat only carrion - meaning animals that are already dead, preferably recently.</p>	<p>Southern Tarplant</p>	<p>A small sunflower and another important summer flowering plant at Bolsa Chica. The small yellow flowers attract lots of pollinators like native bees, wasps, and butterflies. Growing in dense thickets, they also provide a safe place to hide from the hot sun, while their prickly stems provide protection from predators. You can find this endangered plant along the mesa trail.</p>