



Field Trip at the Carmel River State Beach

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. **Bird Story.** There are many bird species in the Carmel River Lagoon. Observe the birds' habitat and their behavior. Record how many you see.



Canada Goose



Mallard



Brown Pelicans



Snowy Plover



Snowy Egrets



Brandt's Comorant



Black Oystercatcher

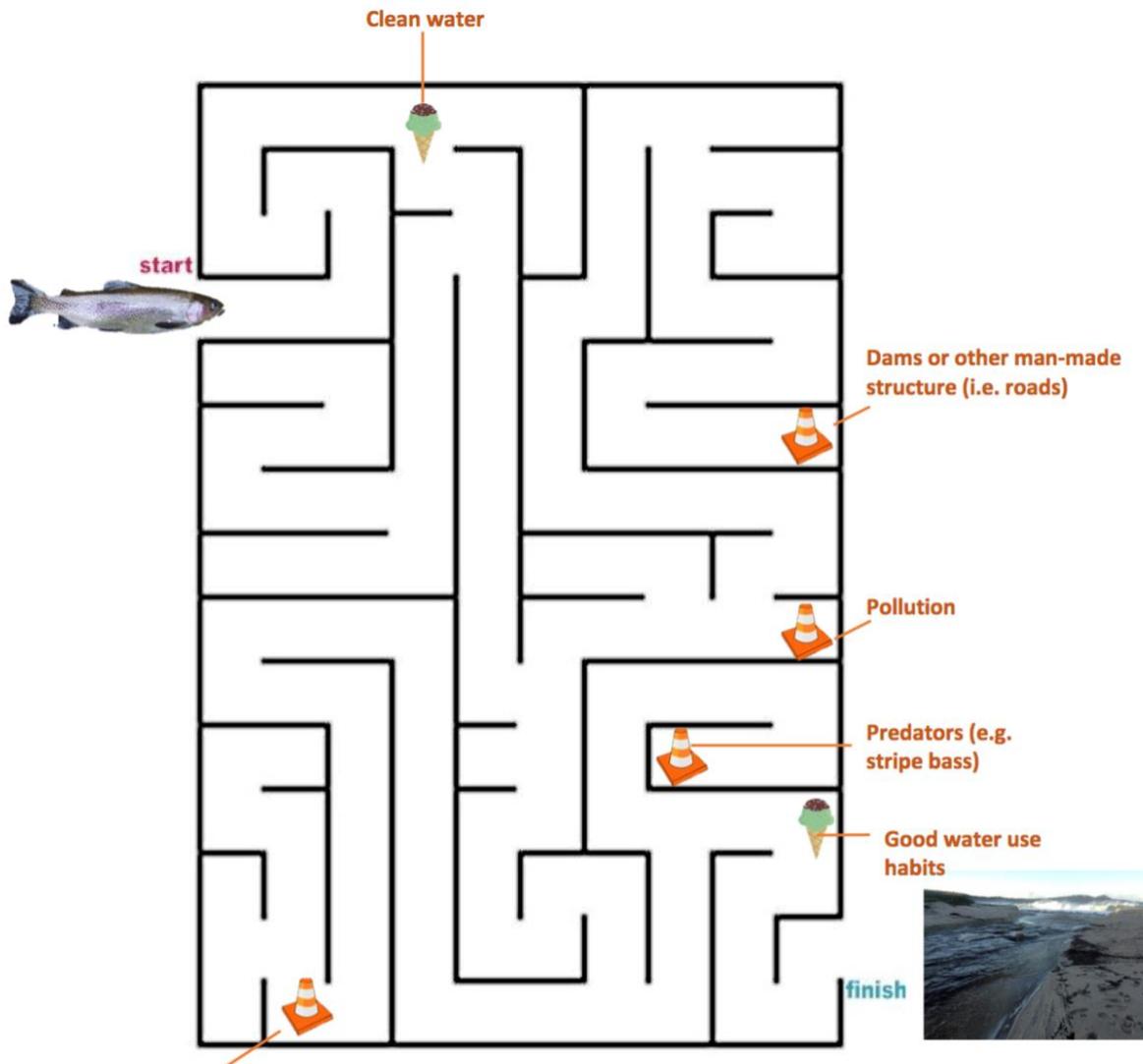


American Coot



Red-necked Phalarope

2. **A steelhead's journey.** An ocean-going steelhead has to go through various obstacles during its journey to the ocean. They overcome the obstacles again when they "home" to the head river to lay eggs. A) Help the steelhead trout reach the Carmel Lagoon, where the river meets the ocean. B) Keep in mind the obstacles along the way and complete the chart down below.



Overdrafting water; Drought



Obstacles and Threats	Things that help with recovery

3. Who are the first people that lived in the area?

4. **The living river.** The course, water level and connectivity of Carmel River change throughout the year. Look at the pictures of Carmel River and the Lagoon in summer months and winter months. What are the differences? What do these changes mean for the lives in the watershed? Answer down below.



(Site: de Dampierre Park, Carmel Valley)



(Site: Carmel River State Beach)

Your Answer:

Answer Key:

2. Obstacles and threats: overdrafting water, drought, dams and other man-made structure, pollution (e.g. litter, agricultural run-off, mining, dredging), predator (e.g. the invasive stripe bass)
Things that help with recovery: clean water, good water use habits, restoring waterways
3. Rumsen, Ohlone, and Esselen
4. In a naturally functioning lagoon ecosystem on the California coast, sand bar breaching occurs during the winter rainy season. Streamflows increase as rains begin. Flows fills the lagoon and eventually breaches the sandbar. This is when the smolted steelhead venture into the ocean. During the summer season, water level is low. Low water level can also be contributed to overdrafting. The low water level can pose difficulties to the steelheads that home.