

Look at the Answer Key!

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READ THE TIDES

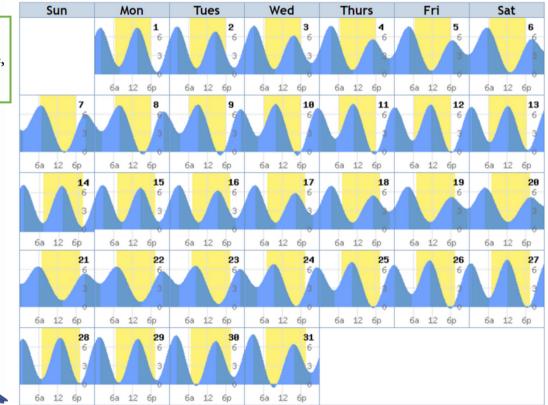
Before going to an intertidal area, you need to make sure the tides are in your favor! Usually, that is when there is a very low tide, so you can walk on the beach or look for creatures in tide pools! Otherwise, at high tide, most land is covered in water and potentially inaccessible or dangerous.

This is a **tide chart**. It tells you when there will be low and high tide! You can check these day of or months in advance, at <u>https://www.tides.net/california/</u>.

Circle the lowest tide of each day. **Circle** the highest tide of each day. Sometime the tides hit the lowest and highest mark twice- just circle one! When would be a good time for you to go to an intertidal area during this month?

DID YOU KNOW? Intertidal creatures are super sensitive to human contact so remember to look, not touch, even at low tide!







HELP PROTECT THE HARBOR SEALS!

Along the coast at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and Cowell-Purisima Trail lives a peculiar group of marine mammals- harbor seals! The harbor seals live there year-round and have their babies, called pups, each spring! The seals are afraid of humans, so the rangers put up cones to keep people from walking too close to the seals and disturbing them. If we get too close we stress out the seals and can lead the mothers to abandoning their pups.



Help us protect the seals by <u>drawing a</u> <u>poster</u> that we can share with the visitors to explain why they should stay behind the cones! Remember to sign your masterpiece!





HELP PROTECT THE HARBOR SEALS!





Look at the Answer Key!

THE BEST BEAKS

When you live in an intertidal area, there are all sorts of delicious critters to eat! Some are in the tidepools- others, in the soft sand. As the safety of the water leaves when the tide goes out, the critters are exposed to hungry shorebirds, even if they're buried deep in the sand!

Even though multiple shorebirds live in the same intertidal area, they have different **niches**, or different ways of living, so they do not compete with each other! Each species evolved unique beak shapes and sizes, an **adaptation** to go after different kinds of prey. Some shorebirds dig for prey deep in the sand with long curved beaks, while others with short and strong beaks pick off creatures on the surface.

Match a shorebird bill to a prey. There is more than one good answer for each!

TRY IT:

What kind of "beak" would work best for you to eat your food? Pick a food and try to eat it with whatever utensils you have: fork, spoon, chopsticks, maybe even your hands!

