

Slough

Read: This is the Slough habitat, it rhymes with “you.” Can you say SLOUGH? Sloughs are long and winding. They are similar to the salt marsh in that they are also transitional habitats. Sloughs connect fresh water resources to the salty ocean, creating a brackish environment. Brackish is that mixture of fresh and salt water. The slough here at the Refuge in Alviso, connects Coyote Creek to the San Francisco Bay. Coyote Creek is the largest watershed in Santa Clara County! Do you remember what a watershed is? An area of land where all of the water drains to the same place.

This slough is also special because it is where the San Jose – Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility discharges about 85% of its treated water. This water comes to the facility from your home, school, and local businesses. Every time you brush your teeth, flush the toilet, or help your parents do the dishes, that dirty water is sent to the treatment facility to be cleaned. This is another freshwater resource that is connected to this slough. The Slough is a tidal habitat, meaning it experiences daily high and low tides. In this photo, you see the Slough at high tide. The next habitat that we will explore is at low tide.

Click your mouse or spacebar to learn about the plants and wildlife that live in the slough habitat!

1. California Gulls are what type of feeders?
 - a. Opportunists
 - b. Hunters
2. Are you more likely to find California Gulls along the coast in the winter or summer?
3. When are Black-crowned Night Herons most active?
4. Click on the Food icon. What are 3 organisms that Black-crowned Night Herons eat?
5. Native Americans in California use Tule plants to make _____.
6. Tule plants can survive in what type of water? *Select all that apply.*
 - a. Fresh
 - b. Salt
 - c. Brackish (mixture of fresh and salt)
7. Are Striped Bass native or non-native to California?
8. Where do Stiped Bass go in the Spring and why?
9. What type of bird is an Osprey?
 - a. Shorebird
 - b. Raptor
 - c. Songbird
10. How do scientists track Osprey?