

# CAMPBELL RIVER ESTUARY SCAVENGER HUNT

## ***What to bring:***

- Printed Scavenger Hunt
- Mobile Phone or Camera
- Pencil

## ***Where to go:***

There are several trails around the Campbell River Estuary to start your adventure. The paved Baikie Island trail begins at the parking lot on the eastern end of Robinson Road. From the parking lot, take the trail to your left. The gravel Myrt Thompson trail begins at the north end of Maple Street with ample street parking. Estuaries are only 2% of the British Columbia coastline, but they are home to millions of species including plants, birds, fish, and mammals. No matter how you choose to explore the estuary, please help us preserve this special place by staying on the designated trails.



1. Did you know that trees can eat rocks AND feed other plants? It's true! Red Alders break down rocks in the ground and make nitrogen (plant food), so that other plants can move in. These spotted trees are helping to restore the Campbell River Estuary, which makes them a natural superhero. Every good hero needs a cool name - what should Red Alder's superhero name be?

***WATCH OUT ROCKS! IT'S***

**!**



2. Plants aren't just food for animals and humans. They have been used for thousands of years to produce dyes and inks. Blackberries, Salal, Oregon Grapes, and Rose Hips are safe to touch, but please don't eat them - some berries are poisonous, and it's easy to mix them up!



Left to right: Blackberries, Salal berries, Rose hips, Oregon grapes

Gather a coloured berry and try to identify it. What colour of dye do you think these berries make? Test out your theory by squishing the berry on the page below, using a bench or the ground to hold your paper steady. This will get messy!

*This is a* \_\_\_\_\_.

3. You see a black bird! But is it a raven or is it a crow? These two birds are often confused, so we wrote a song to help remember the differences... but we need your help to finish the song. Write your lyrics below.



If it's barrel-rolling, weel!  
And its tail looks like a "V"  
No mistakin',  
That's a raven!

If it's flapping in the trees  
And its tail looks like a "C"  
Don't you know?  
That's a crow!



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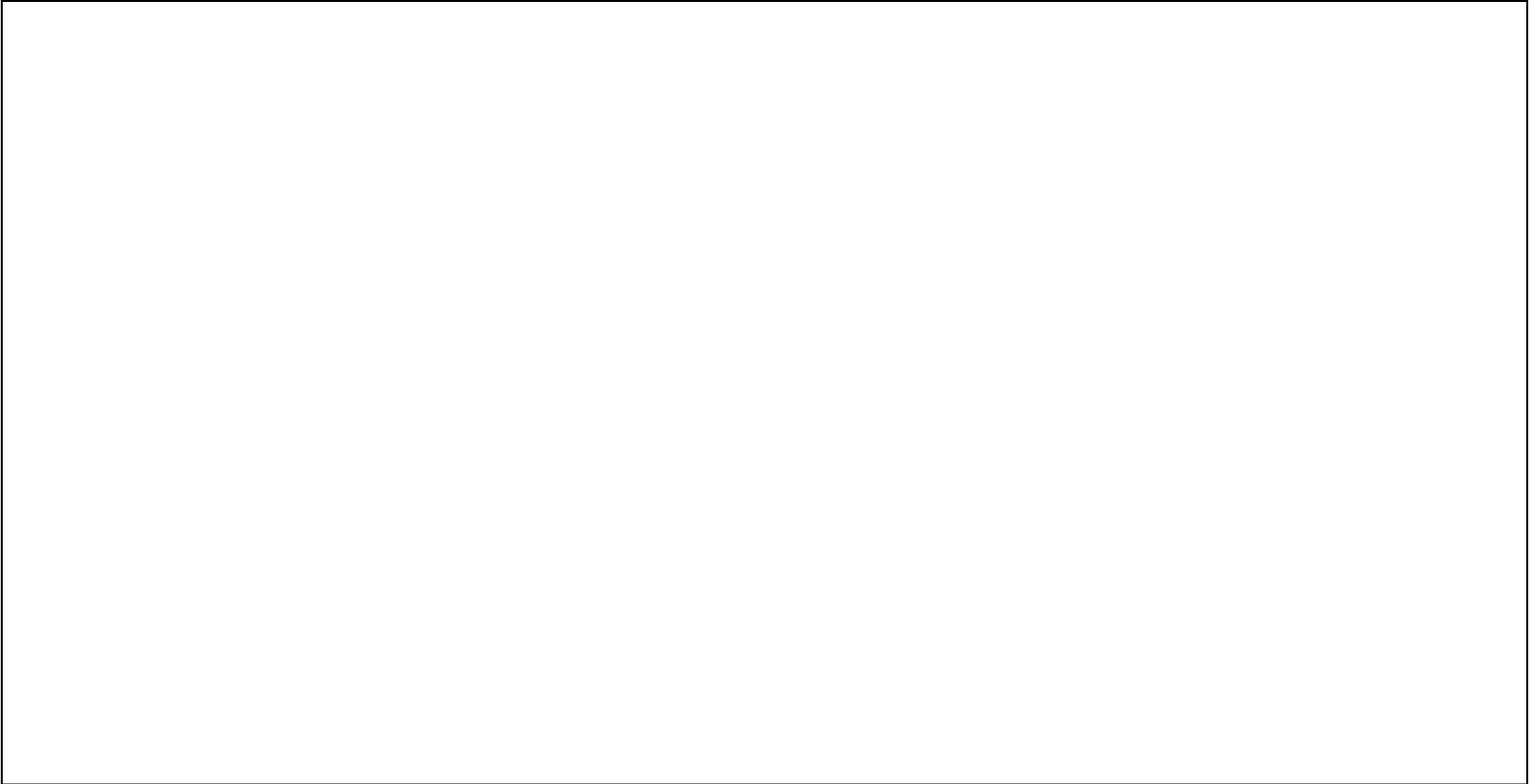
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Here are some differences between ravens and crows:

- ✓ Ravens often "barrel roll" (spin) while they float on warm air called thermals, but crows have a more flappy upright way of flying.
- ✓ Crow tail feathers are all the same length, so it spreads out like a round fan when they fly. Raven tail feathers are longer in the middle, creating a wedge shape in flight.
- Ravens are larger than crows.
- Crows make a higher sound like "CAWW CAW CAW" and ravens make a lower sound like "CRRROAK CRRROAK".
- Ravens travel alone or in pairs, while crows are usually seen in larger groups.
- Crows have smooth feathers on their neck, while ravens have fancy ruffled feathers on their neck.

4. Along the trail, you will find several objects that were made by people. Some help plants, like the woven fences that protect sedge grass from being stomped on by geese. Some are homes for animals, like the bug hotels and purple martin boxes. Others help people, like benches and signs. Pick your favourite human-made object and sketch it below.



*What made this one your favourite?*

5. Our estuary is also home to *invasive species*. These are plants and animals that are not from here, but are harming the local plants and animals because they are no good for eating or making homes. Test your invasive species knowledge by matching the plant with its hint below.

Himalayan Blackberries

I've *swept* away the competition beside roads and trails with my yellow blooms

Purple loosestrife

I was pretty in garden ponds, but watch out - I'm poison to animals and will make you itch

Scotch broom

My tall stalks look like giant fuschia spears ready for a fight

Yellow flag iris

We're tasty treats for humans that can bite you back with our prickles

*Want to help? Our friends at Greenways Land Trust host events where all ages can pitch in to remove these unwelcome plants. Check out their website or Facebook page for more info.*

6. Smell test! Estuary waters, when stirred, produce a distinct smell due to the fungi and bacteria that use sulphur instead of oxygen to survive. These stinky microbes are food for bigger animals. Grab a stick, give the water a gentle stir, and sniff. What does the smell remind you of?

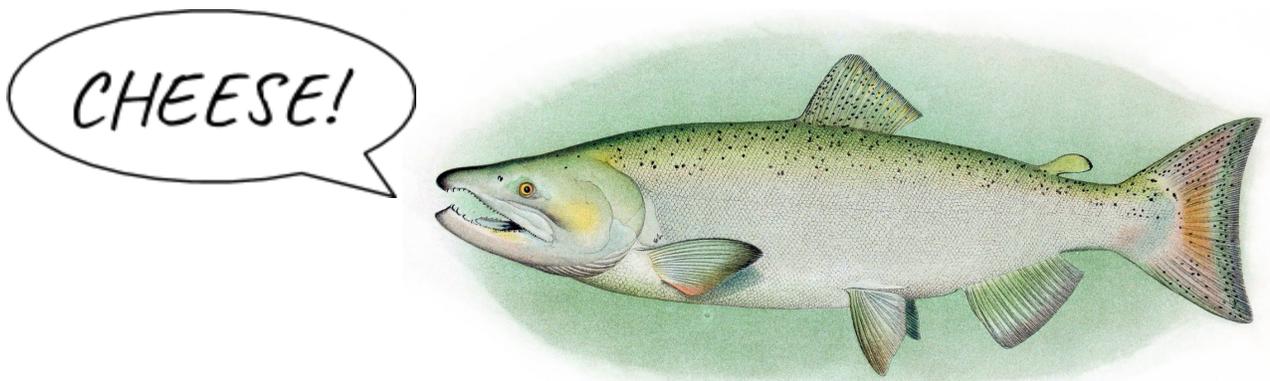
- Spoiled Milk
- Rotten Eggs
- Moldy Bread

7. This estuary has several species of fish, including salmon. Adult salmon swim up the estuary from the sea to produce baby fish, called "fry". Fry need these sheltered areas to hide from predators. Salmon are a "keystone species", which is a fancy way of saying they are very important. Lots of animals from the *sea*, *sky*, and *land* eat salmon. How many salmon-eating species can you think of? List them below:

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Make your best fishy face and snap a selfie. Want to enter a draw for cool prizes? Tag your selfie with #CRAGScavengerHunt on social media or email it to [programs@crartgallery.ca](mailto:programs@crartgallery.ca) and we'll post it for you!



8. In the video series, Cory Cliffe talks about the Seven Generations conservation approach. Pick a nice viewpoint of the estuary and close your eyes. Imagine what it could look like 200 years from now, when your great great great great grandchildren stand here. Has anything changed? Which plants and animals are there? On the last page, draw your future estuary. You might want to finish this at home to add colour and really bring your future estuary to life.

*Seven generations from now, the estuary will look like this*