

# GATEWAY FROM HOME

## Backyard Scavenger Hunt!

You don't have to go far to find natural wonders! How many of these natural curiosities can you find in your own yard or neighborhood?

Our yards, parks, and even the cracks in the sidewalk are full of **animals** to discover!



*patterned wings*



*shiny body*



*colorful feathers*

California has more species of **plants** than any other state. Look for unique colors, shapes, and textures of different plant parts!



*orange petals*



*rough bark*



*lobed leaves*

Habitats are the homes of living organisms. These **abiotic** or non-living things are all part of a healthy habitat!



*mossy rocks*



*bumpy soil*



*crunchy leaves*



**Pipevine Swallowtail**  
*Battus philenor*

This butterfly is found across North America and lives much of its life on pipevine plants.



**Pill Bug (Rolly Poly)**  
*Armadillidium vulgare*

These *crustaceans* originated in Europe and are important decomposers.



**California Scrub Jay**  
*Aphelocoma californica*

This familiar California bird can remember over 200 locations of acorns it has hidden!



**California Poppy**  
*Eschscholzia californica*

Our state flower, this poppy grows throughout the state in a wide range of habitats.



**Blue Oak**  
*Quercus douglasii*

This California oak is common in the Sierra Nevada foothills and can survive long droughts.



**Valley Oak**  
*Quercus lobata*

This is the largest oak species in North America. It can live to 600 years old and grows only in California!



**“Nurse” Rocks**

Rocks like these are called “nurse” rocks because they support life, like mosses, lichens, insects, and lizards living here!



**Worm Castings**

These tiny mounds of soil are produced when worms help process healthy soil. That’s right – it’s worm poop!



**Leaf Litter**

Fallen leaves add nutrients to the soil and provide food and shelter for *invertebrates* like insects and worms.



Worm castings image: Dengarden.com