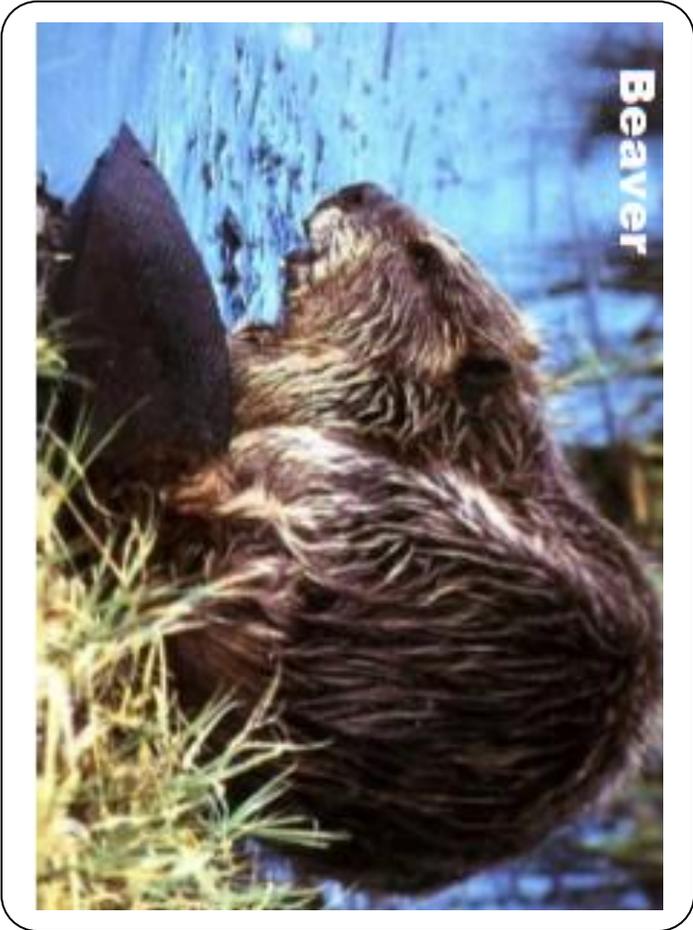


- Fire is a frequent visitor in my *savanna* and *woodland* habitats that encircle the Central Valley.
- My roots can grow through rock to a depth of 80 feet or more to get water from the ground.
- My *drought deciduous* leaves drop when water is scarce and regrow if wet weather returns.
- My acorns are a vital source of food for wildlife and humans.
- I am an *endemic* species and the most drought tolerant of California's deciduous oaks.
- My leathery, blue-green leaves are a protection against sun and are the source of my name. **C2**

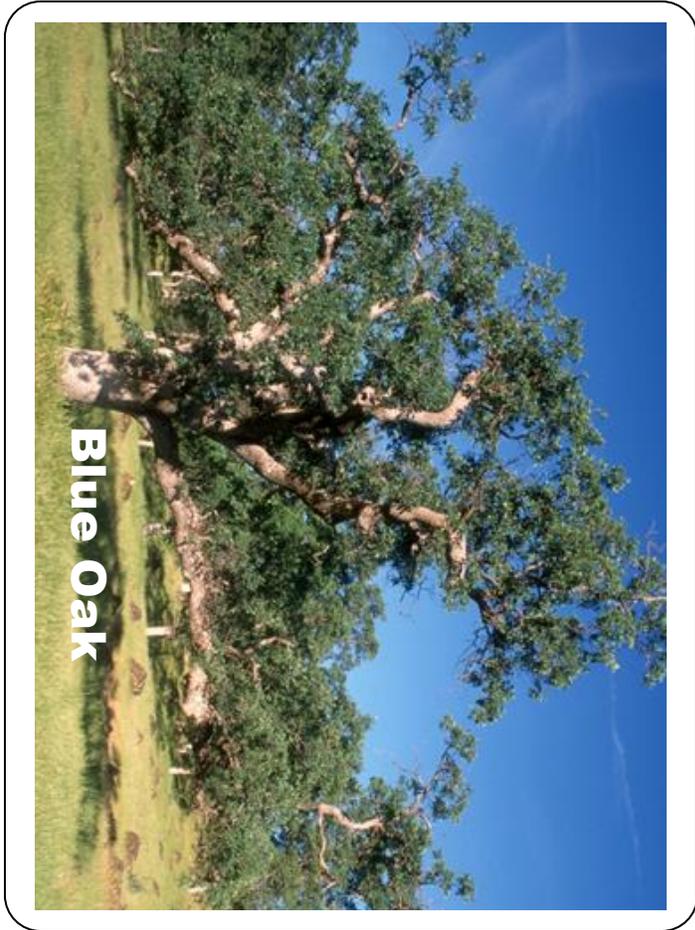
- I live in rivers, streams, lakes, ponds or *riparian* forests.
- I have dense, oily fur, webbed hind feet and ears and nostrils that close when underwater.
- I eat grass, leaves, water plants and gnaw on bark and *cambium* of trees with my big front teeth.
- I'm the largest member of the rodent family in North America.
- I build dams and lodges out of branches and mud or burrow in muddy banks to make a home.
- Many recognize me by my wide tail, which I use as a paddle and to slap the water in warning if I sense danger is near. **C1**

- My kind grows on rocky hillsides and barren areas where water once flowed in the desert.
- An American plant family, we were originally tropical plants, but adapted as the rising Sierra Nevada created the desert.
- Our wide, shallow root systems quickly collect water, which we store in expandable stems for long, dry summers.
- I can shutdown *photosynthesis* to stop daytime water loss.
- We have fixed spines instead of leaves and our green stems do *photosynthesis* to make food.
- My spines keep away herbivores and help prevent water loss. **C4**

- I can dive to 600 feet and hold my breath for up to 40 minutes looking for food underwater.
- A variety of fish, squid, octopus, and eels are among my favorite *prey*.
- I'm a *pinniped*, a suborder of *aquatic carnivorous mammals* with all four limbs as flippers.
- Fastest of my kind, I can swim up to 25 miles per hour with my long torpedo-shaped body.
- Colonies of my kind can be seen hanging out on the Pacific Coast from Baja to Vancouver.
- I do live in the ocean, but I do not have a mane like the cats in Africa as my name implies. **C3**



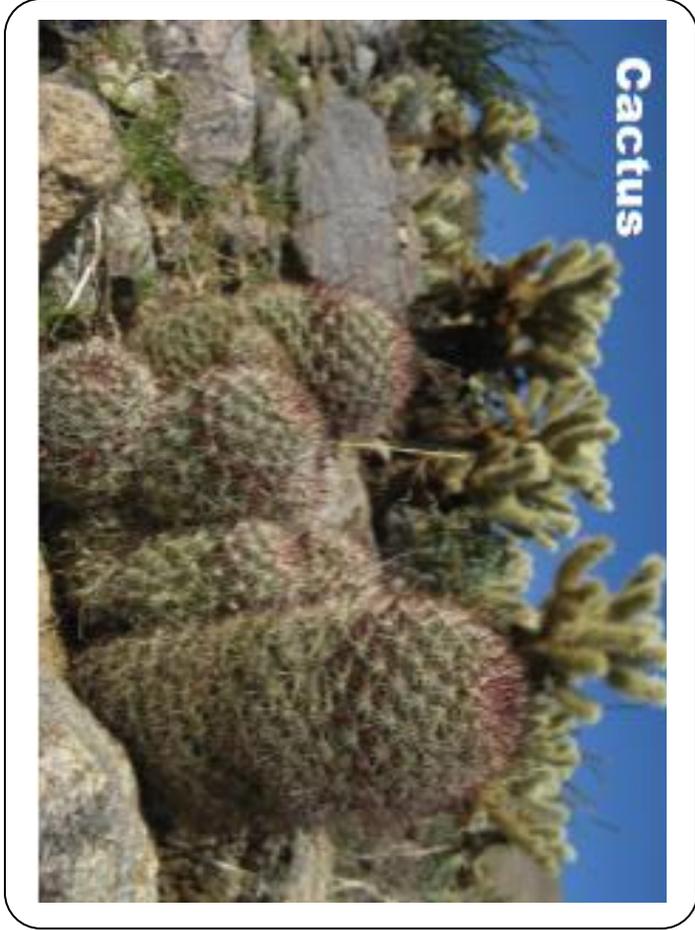
Beaver



Blue Oak



Sea Lion



Cactus