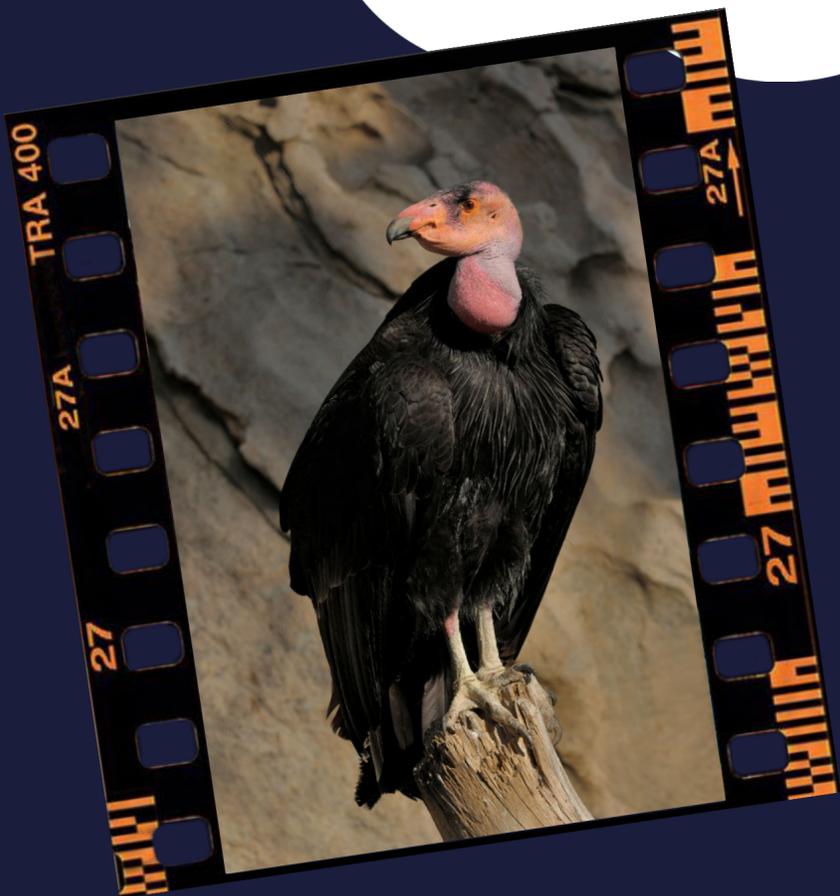


# BACK FROM THE BRINK: THE CALIFORNIA CONDOR



## The bird's-eye view

- The California condor is the **largest vulture in North America and belongs to the New World vultures.**
- It used to be distributed across the whole of the North American continent but is now **restricted to a small area around the west coast of the US.**

## Key threat for California condors:



Vultures eat carcasses that have been killed by hunters. But the lead contained in the bullet is toxic for the condors and ends up poisoning them!



## Old vs New

Vulture species are divided into two groups: Old World vultures and New World vultures!

**Old World vultures** are found in Europe, Africa, and Asia while **New World vultures** are found in America (both North and South).



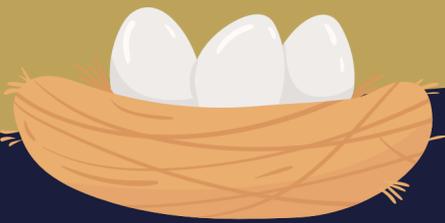
# REINTRODUCING CONDORS

## Zoos to the rescue

1987



Only **27 California condors** were left in the wild! They were all captured and **brought into zoos** to help secure their future. **San Diego Zoo** played a big role in **breeding the condors** and getting them ready for their release in the wild.



1994

**The release** in the wild of the zoo-bred condors starts. Without the work of zoos there would be no California condors left in the world! There are now around **340 individuals in the wild** and zoos are still releasing individuals every year, helping the population grow.

Places where the condors have been reintroduced:

✓ Southern California

✓ Northern California

✓ Northern Arizona

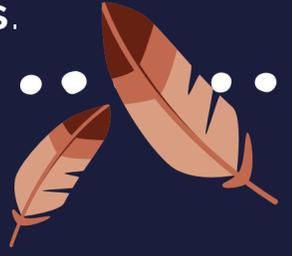
✓ Utah

✓ Northern Mexico

ZOO



- The **Yurok Tribe** is an **indigenous tribe** in
- Northern California for whom the condor has a **spiritual and cultural importance**.
- They use the fallen feathers for **medicinal purposes** and as **headdresses**.



## Yurok Tribe to the rescue

The Yurok Tribe approached the US Fish and Wildlife Service in the early 2000s to check whether it was feasible for them to reintroduce the California condor to their **indigenous ancestral tribal lands**.



The **first population of California condor was reintroduced** this year in Northern California under the management of the Yurok Tribe. The species had been **extinct there since 1892!**



California condors are **opportunistic feeders!** This means that they eat a wide variety of food. Their diet includes dead animals left by other carnivores

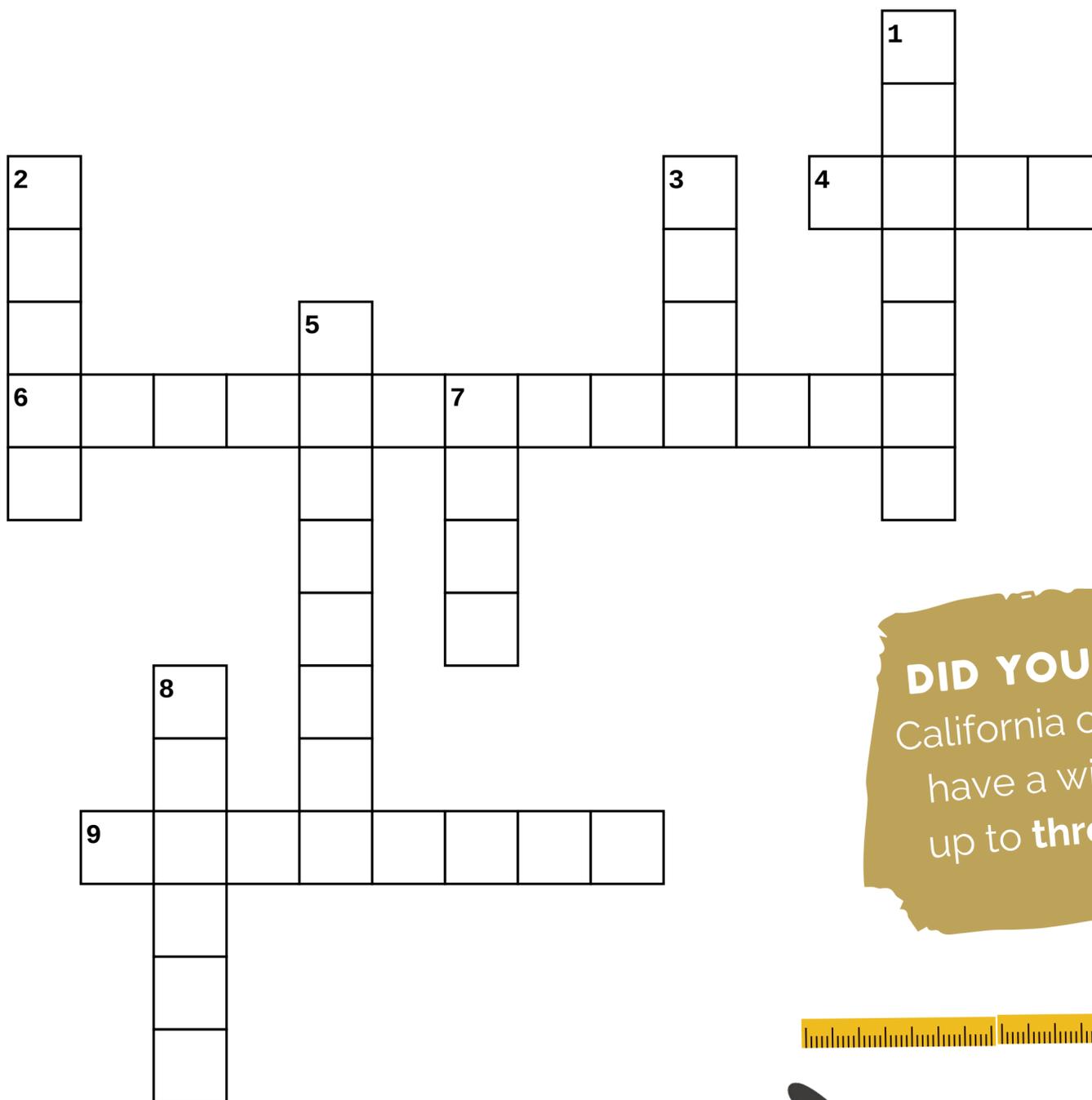
The reintroduced condors are trained to **avoid** structures like towers and power lines



# CONDOR PUZZLES!

Try this crossword puzzle to test your knowledge!

1. The continent where New World vultures are found
2. Indigenous tribe for whom the California condor has a spiritual importance
3. Organisations that have helped the California condor to recover
4. A kind of feeder
5. Places where condors usually nest in
6. It can be up to three meters wide.
7. State where a small population of California condors is found
8. The main threat to California condor
9. Took place in zoos to help the population increase



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
California condors can have a wingspan of up to **three meters!**

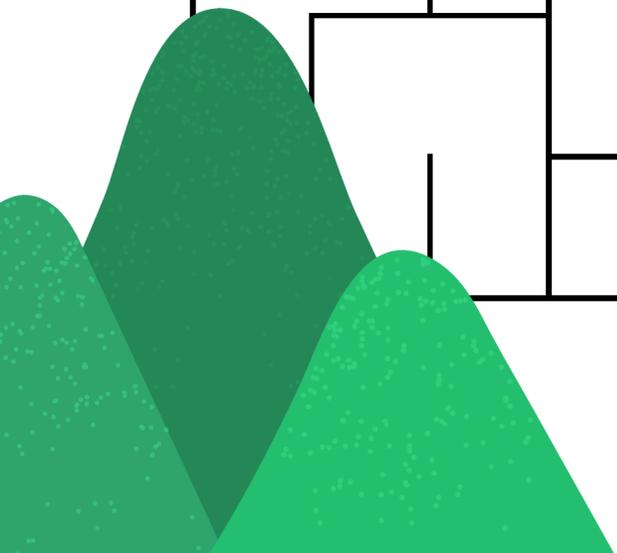
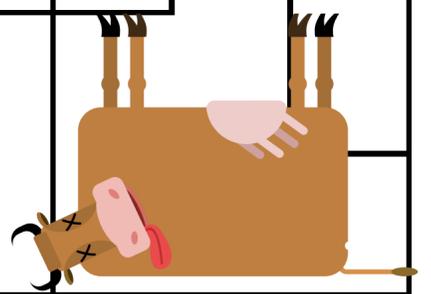
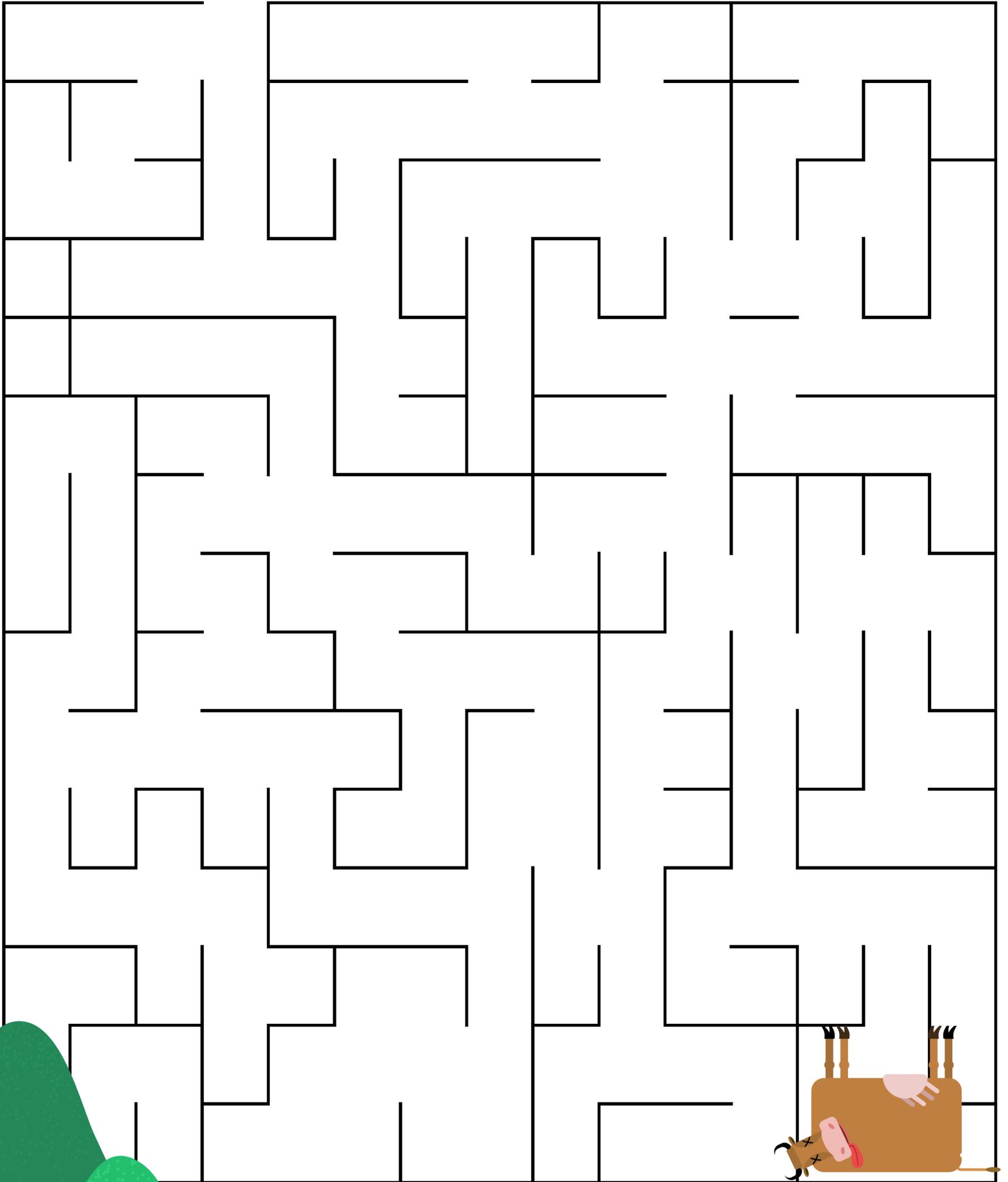


For the answers, turn to the last page

# CONDOR PUZZLES!



Help the California condor  
find his next meal!



# CONDOR PUZZLES!

Did you get them all? Here are the answers!

## Activity 1: Crossword

1. America
2. Yurok
3. Zoos
4. Lead
5. Breeding
6. Opportunistic
7. Utah
8. Cliffs
9. Wingspan



## Activity 2: Maze

