

“San Joaquin Valley Ecosystem” Slide Show

First Grade

Science Standard: 2.a., 2.b., 2.c.

Objective:

To teach the students about the natural habitat near their homes.

Method:

Teacher presents a brief slide show.

Materials:

Laptop

Projector

Projector screen

Procedure: Present the slide show to your class and refer to these notes.

1. Slide 1: Title page
 - a. *What you can say:* Alright, everyone! Right now we are going to learn about the plants, animals, and rivers near our homes. All of the wild creatures and places that I am going to show you all exist nearby. We are going to take a field trip soon to see them!
2. Slide 2: Woodland habitat
 - a. *What you can say:* Just a few miles away, there is a beautiful oak woodland filled with lots of trees. There are trees you can climb and vines you can swing from. It is a mysterious place where many different creatures live.
3. Slide 3: What lives here?
 - a. *What you can say:* What do you think lives in the woodland? Are there any animals there? What likes to live in trees?
4. Slide 4: Western fence lizard
 - a. *What you can say:* The lizard loves to live in the woodlands. This lizard has a bright blue belly. He likes to eat bugs. Bugs are his favorite treat! But he has to watch out-- there are other animals that would like to eat *him*.
5. Slide 5: Red tailed hawk
 - a. *What you can say:* The red tailed hawk is a big bird that preys on other animals, like lizards. It circles in the sky and has a bright red tail when the sun shines through it. The red tailed hawk builds large nests in trees for its chicks.
6. Slide: Mule Deer
 - a. *What you can say:* Deer are very graceful animals. They run through the woods and eat lots of plants.
7. Slide : Bats
 - a. *What you can say:* Bats fly around at night and eat insects. Without them, there would be way more bugs than there are now!
8. Slide : Gray Fox
 - a. *What you can say:* Gray foxes camouflages itself in the shadows with its gray coat. It likes to prey on small animals, like rabbits and mice.

9. Slide : Cottontail Rabbit
 - a. *What you can say:* The cottontail bunny is one of the fastest creatures in the forest. It has to be! It has big back feet that let it bound around quickly.
10. Slide : Grassland habitat
 - a. *What you can say:* There are places here that do not have many trees. These are called grasslands, or savannahs, because they are covered by grass.
11. Slide : What lives here?
 - a. *What you can say:* Many other animals like to live in grasslands away from trees.
12. Slide : Kit fox
 - a. *What you can say:* Kit foxes are very small foxes that live in holes in the ground. They live in large families. They eat rats and rabbits.
13. Slide : Northern harrier
 - a. *What you can say:* The northern harrier is a bird that preys on small animals. He sweeps back and forth in the sky, hunting for them. Unlike most birds, they build their nests on the ground.
14. Slide : California ground squirrel
 - a. *What you can say:* Like the kit fox, the squirrel also lives in holes in the ground called burrows. If they see danger approaching, they squeak loudly to warn their family members.
15. Slide: Rivers
 - a. *What you can say:* Rivers are also an important part of the ecosystem.
16. Slide: What lives here?
 - a. What kinds of animals live in or around rivers?
17. Slide: Trout
 - a. Trout are fish that live in the rivers near here. Trout eat bugs. They wait in slow spots in the river for bugs to wash down. Then, they gobble them up. Even though trout live underwater, they still breathe oxygen just like us. They rely on waterfalls and underwater plants to put oxygen bubbles in the water for them to breathe.
18. Slide: Osprey
 - a. Osprey are birds of prey that eat trout and other fish in rivers. They are able to fly overhead, spot the fish in the water, then swoop down and snatch it. Their talons are shaped a little like fish hooks; they have tiny barbs on them that stick into the fish and hold it in place.
19. Slide: California Newt
 - a. The California newt is an amphibian that lives part of its life in the water. When it is looking for a mate, it lives in shallow pools in small streams or side channels of rivers. The rest of the year, it can live mostly on dry land. They protect themselves with a neurotoxin in their skin. If a predator eats a newt, the toxin will kill it. The newts are only poisonous when they are ingested, though, so it is safe to handle them.
20. Slide: Snow in mountains
 - a. *What you can say:* Rivers start out as snow in the mountains.
21. Slide: Snow melts into rivers
 - a. *What you can say:* The snow melts when summer starts because it gets hot. Then, the melted snow runs into the river and down to where we live.
22. Slide: Rivers go into our tap water
 - a. *What to say:* Then, a machine pumps the water out of the river, and that is what we drink.
23. Slide: Rivers go underground

- a. *What to say:* River water soaks into the ground and makes an underground lake. Those are called aquifers.

24. Slide: Our tap water comes from underground

- a. *What you can say:* If your family has a well, it is getting water from an aquifer.

25. Slide: What is your favorite part of nature?

- a. *What you can say:* So, what is your favorite part about nature?