

# RANGERS NATURE WALK

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## A STUDENT LED EXPLORATION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN RIVER'S ECOSYSTEM

### Sixth Grade Next Generation Science Standards Met:

- [LS2.A](#): Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- [LS2.C](#): Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience
  - [MS-LS2-5](#): Biodiversity describes the variety of species found in Earth's terrestrial and oceanic ecosystems
- [ESS3.C](#): Human Impacts on Earth Systems

### Materials:

- Rangers walk note cards

### Objectives:

- Identify native flora and fauna that belong in the San Joaquin ecosystem.

### Introduction:

The San Joaquin River and surrounding areas are home to a wide variety of plants, animals, and organisms, all contributing to the success of our local ecosystem. A healthy **ecosystem** consists of native plant and animal populations interacting in balance with each other and nonliving things (for example, water and rocks). Today you will get to identify different plants and animals that live around our San Joaquin river and how they fit into the river/riparian ecosystem. We will also discuss some of the human impacts on earth systems.

### Activity:

- Each student is given a plant/animal card with facts about their species. The facilitator will have a list of all possibilities.
- Give students their card to review/ask any questions prior to the nature walk
- Throughout the nature walk, call on a plant or animal when an area that could provide habitat to that species is crossed. Students with said card will teach the rest of the group.
- Sanitize cards.

### Wrap Up/Discussion:

- What interesting facts are you taking from this activity?
- How can humans help positively impact the ecosystem?