SOURCE TO SEA Watershed Education Program

THE LOS ANGELES RIVER ROVER

Standards Connections & Summary Elementary School: Grades 3-5

Human Impact on the Los Angeles River: Past, Present, and Future

Lessons Summary: Human Impact

(Varies with grade level)

	Lesson #1	Lesson #2	Lesson #3
	In-class, teacher led	River Rover Visit, FoLAR led	In-class, teacher led
Objective	An Introduction to the LA River Students understand the history of the River, and that humans and nature are interconnected. By understanding the past, humans have the ability to change the present and future of their environment.	Past, Present, and Future of the LA River Students will compare the states of the River in the past and the present, learn about the LA Watershed, and design a future River.	Biodiversity Students will be able to explain and illustrate the interconnected relationship between living organisms in the River habitat.

Activities	 Powerpoint presentation which provides visual aids Introduction to Indigenous people of LA Discuss why the concrete was covered in concrete 	 River Rover Stations : Each class will rotate through 3 stations/mini-lessons in small groups in and around the River Rover. Stations call on prior knowledge from Lesson 1. Each class takes 1 hour to rotate through all three stations. Lessons discuss: Historic flooding and channelization of the River Endangered and threatened animals Human impact on biodiversity Pollution in the LA River How the LA River gets water The LA River watershed with 	 Powerpoint presentation which provides visual aids Native v. non-native plants discussion and game Biodiversity discussion Overview of plants and animals found in the River Overview of food chains and food webs Discussion of how plants, animals, and humans are all interconnected Optional activity: Web of Life
		 The LA River watershed with interactive 3D model Future of the River Art as activism 	

	Field Trip: Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park
Objective	Students will be able to apply concepts to real world situations by experiencing investigation of the riparian habitat of the LA River. Students will be offered skills to help them engage with nature and develop wonder and curiosity of their environment in order to help them think like scientists.

Activities	 The goal of the activities is to help promote: Investigation of the River through touch, sight, and sound A curious mindset Thinking like a scientist by making observations, formulating questions, and collecting and analyzing data Use of language of the discipline to actively engage with the nature around them Synthesis of material from lessons #1 - 3
	Students rotate through the following learning stations: Nature Walk: Students will go on a guided walk along the River and learn naturalist skills. As we explore the River, they will make nature observations that will help them identify the various plants and animals we come across and understand their role in the ecosystem. Filtration Station: Students collaborate to construct filtration systems using permeable and impermeable materials. They will test and evaluate the effectiveness of their design and compare it to the filtration occuring in concrete and natural bottom areas. Macroinvertebrate Collection: Students will collect water samples and identify the various macroinvertebrates they collect. They will discuss why macroinvertebrates serve as indicator species and how they help determine the water quality of the LA River.

	Optional: Design Challenge Extenstion	
Objective	Students will be able to design a solution to a current problem in the Los Angeles River.	
	Optional activity: Ss will be able to build a model of a system that solves a current problem in the Los Angeles River.	
Activities	Design solutions for factors affecting River habitat health. Solutions can be realistic or fantasy based. Can be specific to Lewis MacAdams Riverfront Park (site of field trip).	
	For example: • Air pollution from freeway • Urban/community runoff • Impacts of a concrete city	
	Optional activity: Classes are encouraged to make models of the solutions out of unconventional, household materials. Students pledge to help the River.	

Standards Abbreviations Key

 California State Standards Abbreviations SS: Social Studies LS: Life Sciences SM: Scientific Method ES: Earth Science 	 Next Generation Science Standards Abbreviations (NGSS) ESS: Earth and Space Sciences LS: Life Sciences ETS: Engineering and Design PE: Performance Expectations DCI: Disciplinary Core Ideas CC: Crosscutting Concepts
California Common Core State Standards Abbreviations (CCSS) L: Language Standards 	

- RI: Reading Standards for Informational Text
- SL: Speaking and Listening Standards
- W: Writing Standards

NGSS: General Concepts Covered in Lessons (L) #1-3	Students (Ss)
Across arade levels	

Possible applications in lessons are italicized.

Science and Engineering Practices	Cross Cutting Concepts (CC)
 Make observations (first hand or from media) to construct an evidence-based account for natural phenomena. Ss use visual aids/photographs to depict natural events around the River. 	 Cause and Effect Simple tests can be designed to gather evidence to support or refute student ideas about causes. Ss predict the state of biodiversity and the web of life in the present, and the causes of change in them.
 Use tools and materials provided to design a device that solves a specific problem. In L#3, Ss design a solution to a problem affecting the River habitat. Scientists use different ways to study the world. 	 Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change. Biodiversity decreased when the River was channelized in the late 1930s. No native fish live in the River today. Native species now compete with non-native and invasive species for habitat.

• Ss think like a scientist depending on the activity: biologist, **Energy and Matter** anthropologist... Matter is transported into, out of, and within systems. Engaging in argument from evidence in K-2 builds on prior • Systems: food web, habitat around the River and within. experiences and progresses to comparing ideas and representations about the natural and designed world(s). Construct Patterns an argument with evidence to support a claim. Patterns in the natural world can be observed, used to describe • Ss compare man made "solutions" to floods and pollution. phenomena, and used as evidence. Ss will compare the current construction to what improvements can be made by humans: porous stones, less Patterns of change can be used to make predictions. Ss predict the level of biodiversity in the River habitat today concrete, protected habitat, community access. • based on prior knowledge and L#1. Scientists search for cause and effect relationships to explain Influence of Engineering...and the Natural World natural events. People depend on various technologies in their lives; human life would be very different without technology. Heavy rainy seasons caused the River channel to overflow, which damaged surrounding communities. Los Angeles was established because of the River's resources. Urban development began on the riverbanks, which left businesses and residents susceptible to flooding. The Army Corps of Engineers channelized the River for flood control. Every human-made product is designed by applying some knowledge of the natural world and is built by using materials derived from the natural world. • Native plants and soil act as a natural filtration systems. On the field trip, Ss create a model of a filtration system through the lens of engineers. Ss will also see a newly designed channel that uses native plants and soil to filter city water before it meets the River. Scientific discoveries about the natural world can often lead to new and improved technologies, which are developed through the engineering design process. Engineers improve existing technologies or develop new ones to increase their benefits, to decrease known risks, and to meet societal demands. Angelenos saw the River as a nuisance and demanded a solution. Fredrick L. Olmsted proposed a design similar to

what the Army Corps has proposed for the future River. In the late 1930s, Olmsted's plan was rejected for plans to straighten and concretize the River. In L#3, students will design a solution to issues around the River today: runoff, air pollution, and habitat destruction. On the field trip, Ss will create models of filtration systems using trial and error.

NGSS Connections by Grade Level

ISS K.6.3. Understand how people lived in earlier times and how their lives would be different todayI-LSI Structure, Function, and Information Processing (PE) I-LSI-1. Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.*SS.1.5.2. Understand the ways in which Native Americans and immigrants have helped define Californian and American culture.I-LSI Structure, Function, and Information Processing (PE) I-LSI-1. Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.*IS Review: K.2.a Students know how to observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of plants and animals (e.g., seed-bearing plants, birds, fish, insects).I-LSI.D. (DCI) Information Processing Animals have body parts that capture and convey different twids of information needed for growth and survival. Animal respond to these inputs with behaviors that help them survive. Plants also respond to some external inputs. (I-LSI-I Designs can be conveyed through sketches, drawings, or physical models. These representations are useful in communicating ideas	Grade	CA Content Standards	NGSS (PE, DCI)
 Review: K.3.c. Students know how to identify resources from Earth that are used in everyday life and understand that many resources can be conserved. Review: K.4.a Observe common objects by using the five sonses 	1	 SS K.6.3. Understand how people lived in earlier times and how their lives would be different today SS 1.4.1 Examine the structure of schools and communities in the past. SS.1.5.2. Understand the ways in which Native Americans and immigrants have helped define Californian and American culture. LS Review: K.2.a Students know how to observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of plants and animals (e.g., seed-bearing plants, birds, fish, insects). LS Review: K.2.c. Students know how to identify major structures of common plants and animals (e.g., stems, leaves, roots, arms, wings, legs). Review: K.3.c. Students know how to identify resources from Earth that are used in everyday life and understand that many resources can be conserved. Review: K.4.a Observe common objects by using the five conserved. 	 I-LSI Structure, Function, and Information Processing (PE) I-LSI-1. Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.* I-LSI.D. (DCI) Information Processing Animals have body parts that capture and convey different kinds of information needed for growth and survival. Animals respond to these inputs with behaviors that help them survive. Plants also respond to some external inputs. (1-LS1-1) ETSI.B: Developing Possible Solutions Designs can be conveyed through sketches, drawings, or physical models. These representations are useful in communicating ideas for a problem's solutions to other people. K-2 Performance Expectations K-2-ETS1-1. Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the dovelopment of a pow or improved object or tool

	 LS 1.2.a Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. LS 1.2.b Students know both plants and animals need water, animals need food, and plants need light. 	K-2-ETSI-2. Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.
2	 SS 2.4.3 Understand how limits on resources affect production and consumption (what to produce and what to consume). SS 2.1.3 Place important eventsin the order in which they occurred SS 2.2.4 Compare and contrast basic land use in urban, suburban, and rural environments in California. LS 2.2.a. Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. LS 2.2.c. Students know many characteristics of an organism are inherited from the parents. Some characteristics are caused or influenced by the environment. Earth Science 2.3.e Students know rock, water, plants, and soil provide many resources, including food, fuel, and building materials, that humans use. Scientific Method 2.4.a. Make predictions based on observed patterns and not random guessing. Scientific Method 2.4.b. Differentiate evidence from opinion and know that scientists do not rely on claims or conclusions unless they are backed by observations that can be confirmed. SM 2.4.d. Predict the outcome of a simple investigation and 	 2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats. 2-LS4.D. Biodiversity and Humans (DCI) There are many different of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land and in water. (2-LS4-1) LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems (DCI) Plants depend on water and light to grow. ETSI.C: Optimizing the Design Solution (DCI) Because there is always more than one possible solution to a problem, it is useful to compare and test designs. K-2 Performance Expectations K-2-ETSI-1. Ask questions, make observations, and gather information about a situation people want to change to define a simple problem that can be solved through the development of a new or improved object or tool. K-2-ETSI-2. Develop a simple sketch, drawing, or physical model to illustrate how the shape of an object helps it function as needed to solve a given problem.
	compare the result with the prediction.	

3	SS 3.1.2 . Trace the ways in which people have used the resources of the local region and modified the physical environment (e.g., a dam constructed upstream changed a river or coastline).	 3-LS1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes 3-LS2-1. Cause and effect relationships are routinely identified and used to explain change.
	SS 3.3.3 Trace whycommunity was established, how individuals and families contributed to its founding and development, and how the community has changed over	3-LS3-2. Use evidence to support the explanation that traits can be influenced by the environment.
	time	LS3.A Inheritance of Traits (DCI) Other characteristics result from individuals' interactions with
	LS 3.3.c. Students know living things cause changes in the environment in which they live: some of these changes are detrimental to the organism, and some are beneficial	the environment, which can range from diet to learning. Many characteristics involve both inheritance and environment.
	(human impact).	3-LS2.C. (DCI) Habitat Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience When the environment changes in ways that affect a place's
	LS 3.3.d . Students know when the environment changes, some plants and animals survive and reproduce; others die or move to new locations.	physical characteristics, temperature, or availability of resources, some organisms survive and reproduce, others move to new locations, yet others move into the transformed environment, and some die. (secondary to 3-LS4-4)
	SM 3.5.b Differentiate evidence from opinion and know that scientists do not rely on claims or conclusions unless	3-154-3 Construct an argument with evidence that in a
	they are backed by observations that can be confirmed.	particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.
		3-LS4-4 . Make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change.
		ESS3.B: Natural Hazards (DCI) A variety of natural hazards result from natural processes. Humans cannot eliminate natural hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts.

4	SS 4. 2 Students describe the social, political, cultural, and economic life and interactions among people of California from the pre-Columbian societies to the Spanish mission and Mexican rancho periods.	ESS2.E: Biogeology (DCI) Living things affect the physical characteristics of their regions.
	SS 4.2.1 Discuss the major nations of California Indians, including describe how they depended on, adapted tothe physical environment	energy and fuels are derived from natural resources and their uses affect the environment.
	SS 4.2.3 Describe the Spanish exploration and colonization of California, including the relationships among soldiers, missionaries, and Indians (e.g., Juan Crespi).	4-ESS3-2. Generate and compare multiple solutions to reduce the impacts of natural Earth processes on humans. ESS3.B: Natural Hazards (DCI)
	SS 4.4. 7 Trace the evolution of California's water system into a network of dams, aqueducts, and reservoirs. (watershed, Los Angeles River channel)	A variety of hazards result from natural processes (e.g., earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions). Humans cannot eliminate the hazards but can take steps to reduce their impacts.
	LS 4.2. b Students know producers and consumers (herbivores, carnivores, omnivores, and decomposers) are related in food chains and food webs and may compete with each other for resources in an ecosystem.	
	LS 4.3.a Students know ecosystems can be characterized by their living and nonliving components.	
	LS 4.3.b. Students know that in any particular environment, some kinds of plants and animals survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.	
	SM 4.6.c. Formulate and justify predictions based on cause-and-effect relationships.	

5	SS 5.1.1 Describe how geography and climate influenced the way various nations lived and adjusted to the natural environment	5-LS2-1. Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.
	 ES 5.3.d Students know that the amount of fresh water located in rivers, lakes, underground sources, and glaciers is limited and that its availability can be extended by recycling and decreasing the use of water. ES 5.3.e Students know the origin of the water used by their local communities. 	LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems (DCI) Organisms can survive only in environments in which their particular needs are met. A healthy ecosystem is one in which multiple species of different types are each able to meet their needs in a relatively stable web of life. Newly introduced species can damage the balance of an ecosystem.
	SM 5.6.e Identify a single independent variable in a scientific investigation and explain how this variable can be used to collect information to answer a question about the results of the experiment.	ESS2.C: The Roles of Water in Earth's Surface Processes (DCI) Nearly all of Earth's available water is in the ocean. Most fresh water is in glaciers or underground; only a tiny fraction is in streams, lakes, wetlands, and the atmosphere.
		5-ESS3-1 . Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.
		3-5-ETS1-2. Generate and compare multiple possible solutions to a problem based on how well each is likely to meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.

CCSS: Grades 1-2

CCSS Abbreviation	Grade 1	Grade 2
RI1	(RI.1.1) Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.	(RI.2.1) Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details
RI3	Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information	Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts

RI7	Use the illustrations and details in a text to describe its key ideas.	Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.
W8	With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.	Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
SL1	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 1 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.	Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about grade 2 topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
SL4	Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.	(Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences.
SL5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.	Add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

CCSS: Grades 3-5

CCSS Abbreviation	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5
RI1	(RI.3.1)Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.	(RI.4.1) Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.	(RI.5.1) Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
RI3	Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.	Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text	Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.

RI7	Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).	Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.	Draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.
SL1	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 4 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.	Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners on grade 5 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
SL4	Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.	Describe people, places, things, and events with relevant details, expressing ideas and feelings clearly.	Tell a story or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking audibly in coherent sentences
SL5	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions as desired to provide additional detail.	Add drawings or other visual displays to descriptions when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.	Create audio recordings of stories or poems; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences when appropriate to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.
W8	With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.	With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.	Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

California's Environmental Principles and Concepts

California's Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&C's) examine the interactions and interdependence of human societies and natural systems, and are the foundation of the environmental content taught in the EEI Curriculum. Approved in 2004, these 5 principles and fourteen supporting concepts were developed by more than one hundred

scientists and technical experts. By law, the EP&C's must be addressed in all future California textbooks and instructional materials adopted by the state.

Principle I. People Depend on Natural Systems

The continuation and health of individual human lives and of human communities and societies depend on the health of the natural systems that provide essential goods and ecosystem services.

Concept A. Students need to know that the goods produced by natural systems are essential to human life and to the functioning of our economies & cultures.

Concept B. Students need to know that the ecosystem services provided by natural systems are essential to human life and to the functioning of our economies and cultures.

Concept C. Students need to know that the quality, quantity, and reliability of the goods and ecosystem services provided by natural systems are directly affected by the health of those systems.

Principle II. People Influence Natural Systems

The long-term functioning and health of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems are influenced by their relationships with human societies.

Concept A. Students need to know that direct and indirect changes to natural systems due to the growth of human populations and their consumption rates influence the geographic extent, composition, biological diversity, and viability of natural systems.

Concept B. Students need to know that methods used to extract, harvest, transport, and consume natural resources influence the geographic extent, composition, biological diversity, and viability of natural systems.

Concept C. Students need to know that the expansion and operation of human communities influences the geographic extent, composition, biological diversity, and viability of natural systems.

Concept D. Students need to know that the legal, economic, and political systems that govern the use and management of natural systems directly influence the geographic extent, composition, biological diversity, and viability of natural systems.

Principle III. Natural Systems Change in Ways that People Benefit from and can Influence

Natural systems proceed through cycles that humans depend upon, benefit from, and can alter.

Concept A. Students need to know that natural systems proceed through cycles and processes that are required for their functioning. **Concept B.** Students need to know that human practices depend upon and benefit from the cycles and processes that operate within natural systems.

Concept C. Students need to know that human practices can alter the cycles and processes that operate within natural systems.

Principle IV. There are no Permanent or Impermeable Boundaries that Prevent Matter from Flowing Between Systems The exchange of matter between natural systems and human societies affects the long-term functioning of both.

Concept A. Students need to know that the effects of human activities on natural systems are directly related to the quantities of resources consumed and to the quantity and characteristics of the resulting byproducts.

Concept B. Students need to know that the byproducts of human activity are not readily prevented from entering natural systems and may be beneficial, neutral, or detrimental in their effect.

Concept C. Students need to know that the capacity of natural systems to adjust to human-caused alterations depends on the nature of the system as well as the scope, scale, and duration of the activity and the nature of its byproducts.

Principle V. Decisions Affecting Resources and Natural Systems are Complex and Involve Many Factors Decisions affecting resources and natural systems are based on a wide range of considerations and decision-making processes.

Concept A. Students need to know the spectrum of what is considered in making decisions about resources and natural systems and how those factors influence decisions.

Concept B. Students need to know the process of making decisions about resources and natural systems, and how the assessment of social, economic, political, and environmental factors has changed over time.