

High School Lesson Plan – Lesson 2

Theme: LA River Rover: Past, Present, and Future of the LA River

Subject: Physical, Life, and Social Sciences

<p>Objective</p>	<p>Students can explain what a watershed is and how it connects all parts of a city. Students understand how humans can affect the watershed and the ocean, which the River is connected to.</p>
<p>Standards</p>	<p>LS 9.c. Students know the importance of water to society, the origins of California’s fresh water, and the relationship between supply and need.</p> <p>HS-LS1-2 Models...can be used to simulate systems and interactions—including energy, matter, and information flows—within and between systems at different scales.</p> <p>HS-ESS3-2 Many decisions are not made using science alone, but rely on social and cultural contexts to resolve issues.</p> <p>HS-ESS3- 3 Change and rates of change can be quantified and modeled over very short or very long periods of time. Some system changes are irreversible.</p>
<p>Vocabulary</p>	<p>Tributary A branch of a river or lake that flows to a larger river or lake.</p> <p>Watershed A watershed is an area of land where water from rivers, streams, and lakes gathers, and drains into a single place such as an ocean or lake. Hills and mountains separate watersheds.</p> <p>Storm Drain A drain that carries rain water away from the street and into rivers and oceans</p> <p>Infiltration The process of surface water being absorbed into the ground</p> <p>Groundwater Water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock.</p> <p>Endangered Species A species at risk of becoming extinct.</p> <p>Threatened Species A species at risk of becoming endangered.</p>

Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If virtual: projector • If in-person: field trip waivers for all students
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of LA River history • Overview of threatened and endangered species • Pollution travels through the watershed to the ocean. • There is a path of trash between the streets, rivers, and oceans • A watershed is an area of land that drains its water to a river, stream, or lake. Hills and mountains separate watersheds. • Smaller tributaries feed into the larger river • There is little/no filtration within storm drains before polluted water gets to the LA River. There is some filtration in the soft-bottom sections of the LA River by soil, rocks, and plants. • The LA River ends in Long Beach. All of the trash and pollution are concentrated at the end of the LA River. • Humans have a major impact on the cleanliness of the river and oceans because of how the watershed moves pollution • Discussion about the future of the LA River
Possible Extensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore Watersheds interactive game: https://www.discoverwater.org/explore-watersheds/ • Visit our website folar.org for more information resources and links to interactive games to extend learning, like our Watershed Wonders lesson.