

Tom Bennett Art and Environmental Science Contest 2011
San Bernardino County Museum Association
Conserving Wetlands

WETLANDS CONSERVATION REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

RESOURCES AT THE MUSEUM

The San Bernardino County Museum Loan Program has Study Kits on various ecosystems of the region, plus individual specimens to provide individuals and students with opportunities to access the real thing. Many schools are members already; call the Museum at 909-307-2669 x 245 to find about your school. ALL families and teachers who are working on this project receive ONE FREE LOAN transaction for use with their family or in their classroom.

Materials may be borrowed for up to two weeks.

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/discover/divisions/education/loans.htm>)

The Museum's exhibits also contain scores of animals, organized by the broad ecosystem categories of the region. Most of the animals you include in your poster or scrapbook will likely be on exhibit at the Museum.

Families: enjoy a trip to the Museum to get ideas for your poster design. Attend **Poster Design: Making a Poster that Makes an Impact *Family Fun Day*** on October 29, 2011, for fun activities and a chance to learn even more. Activities run 1:00-5:00. A family membership is just \$40 and includes free admission to the Museum for a whole year.

Teachers: Encourage a weekend field trip with the family to give students an opportunity to involve parents and siblings for a fun learning experience. Cost for a family of five ranges from \$22-27. Or, encourage families to visit a wetland nearby, such as a city park pond, The Santa Ana River at Hidden Valley or Rubidoux Nature Centers in Riverside, or the Santa Ana River near Angeles Oaks on Hwy 38.

WEBSITES FOR PHOTOS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

<http://www.watereducation.org/userfiles/ABriefingonCaliforniaWetlands.pdf>

This site offers a very good general description of wetlands, their conservation and protection status, and more. The site is recommended for those developing a basic understanding of wetlands for this project. Read a couple of pages for a very comprehensive overview.

<http://www.californiawetlands.net/tracker/>

This site offers an excellent introduction to wetlands, their ecology, their conservation, and the plants and animals that live there. Take time to explore! This site is particularly good with information regarding conserving and protecting wetlands.

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/about/resource-mgmt.html>

This is the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Resources site. It contains great narratives and photos of plants and animals by region. Under Resource Management, you can search for animal species by specific region. This will result in a good animal list to start with.

http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/California_Floristic_Province

This site introduces the California Floristic Province as a bioregion. Since it is a wikipedia site, expect to use it ONLY for general reference, and not as a source for correct information about specific ecosystems, habitats, or species.

<http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/fauna/com-Bird.html>

With just the common name of the bird you are looking for, this provides multiple photos both in and out of their habitats. Most photos on this site may be used for the Art and Environmental Science Competition, with proper credit given (each photos gives use and credit details).

<http://calphotos.berkeley.edu/landscape/>

This page on the same website offers photos of various habitats, including many in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

<http://mojavedesert.net/habitat/>

This site offers excellent descriptions of local habitats within larger ecosystems. It's a good site to help you determine the habitat type you live near.

<http://www.blueskyreserve.org/riparian.html>

This reserve is in San Diego County, but is equivalent ecologically to the San Bernardino and Riverside areas for the purposes of this project.

<http://www.laspilitas.com/>

This site has tons of photos of animals, plants and habitats, as well as native plants!

<http://www.friendsoftheriver.org/site/PageServer?pagename=FORCalRiversSantaAnaRiver>

This is a California-wide friends organization that supports river habitat and recreation conservation. It's a good site to explore how people get involved in conservation efforts at a local level.

<http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&t=h&hl=en&msa=0&msid=108208772478691043243.000453167c7f048348671&ll=34.143635,-115.422363&spn=6.635627,9.84375&z=7>

This is a map of inland county birding sites, which may be used as a starter point to find more information related to your specific geographic location. Plus, it's a really cool application!

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cwhr/cawildlife.aspx>

This page allows a search for specific species of animals.

<http://www.calwaterfowl.org/web2/leftcolumnmenu/educatorresources/default.htm>

This site makes the connection between hunting and wetlands conservation. Take a look – hunting and fishing licensing provides a major portion of habitat conservation and education in habitats where game animals are found.

BOOKS

Many of these books are available at county and city libraries. Be careful with general children's books on birds and wildlife. Many are too generic to allow you to find birds that actually occur in southern California at some point in their migration cycle. Books listed here are intended to help you focus your search focus on California.

Some HINTS for ALL competition entrants: Be sure you understand what your and/or your students are researching and writing about. Many popular non-fiction books – especially those aimed to children – are very general, and do not give specific species for the ecosystems and habitats of inland southern California. For this reason, online sources are the best for locating bird species of your region, especially those of local and state agencies and wildlife organizations such as Audubon Society or California Fish and Game Department. Many birds live in multiple habitats, so be sure you can identify the specific range of the species your students are illustrating and writing about.