

# Sly Park Video Lesson: Creek Ecology Student Handout



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Observations are foundational to being a scientist. Observations lead to questions and questions lead to discoveries. This informs the direction of scientific investigations.

Pause the video. **Describe** what it means to investigate something.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What do you notice along the trail down to the creek? What do you wonder?  
**Record** your observations using the t-chart below:

| Notice | Wonder |
|--------|--------|
|        |        |

3. Fill in the blanks  
A. Biotic means that something is: \_\_\_\_\_  
B. Abiotic means that something is \_\_\_\_\_

4. Interdependence = Biotic things depending on each other and abiotic resources for survival.  
**Draw and label** one example of interdependence in your yard or a local park?

5. Ecosystem = A community of interdependent biotic things that interact with their non-living abiotic environment.  
**Describe** an ecosystem near where you live: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Riparian zones = transitional areas between land and water. These areas include the borders of streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands.  
**Name and describe** one riparian area near where you live: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Pause the video. In the table below, **predict** two biotic and abiotic things you expect to encounter at Park Creek:

|                     |  |  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Biotic Predictions  |  |  |
| Abiotic Predictions |  |  |

8. Indicator species = An organism whose presence, abundance or absence reflects a specific environmental condition. After watching the entire video go to [wildlife.ca.gov](http://wildlife.ca.gov) and search the term 'indicator species' using the search bar at the top right corner of the page:

**Name** one indicator species and **describe** where it's found in California

A. Indicator species: \_\_\_\_\_

B. Where is it found: \_\_\_\_\_

9. **Identify** and **describe** two human impacts to a riparian zone.  
Do you think it is a positive, negative or neutral (no effect)?

|                | Human Impact                                      | Positive / Negative / Neutral Effect?                                     |
|----------------|---|---|
| <i>Example</i> | <i>Car oil leaking into a neighborhood stream</i> | <i>Negative - oil might harm the biotic things that live in the creek</i> |
| #1             |   |   |
| #2             |   |   |

10. **Describe** an investigation you could carry out at the riparian ecosystem. You can use your answer from *Question 6*.

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11. *How could you use your findings to make a positive human impact on this waterway?*

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