

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 depend 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 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*.

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