



# 5th Grade

## Human Interactions with Earth Systems

*“As children observe, reflect, record, and share nature’s patterns and rhythms, they are participating in a process that promotes scientific and ecological awareness, problem solving, and creativity.”*

- Deb Matthews Hensley, Early Childhood Consultant

### OVERVIEW

Students use investigation and inquiry to learn about stream ecology, energy transfer and the biodiversity of local flora and fauna. Students engage in critical thinking as they consider human influence on the environment.

### COMPLIMENTARY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

CARING FOR THE LAND: THE SCIENCE AND STEWARDSHIP OF OPEN SPACE

This pre-field trip presentation highlights how humans affect the environment. Students learn how science is used to make decisions about how people care for the earth’s resources. Students study ecosystem interactions, land and water use, as well as how people can be a positive influence on their local environment.

### STANDARDS

- Science Standards 2e - 2g, 3a - 3c, 6f - 6h
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.5.4
- CCSS.ELA-Literacy.SL.5.6

### HANDS-ON FIELD TRIP ACTIVITIES

- **SCIENTIFIC SURVEY:** Students conduct scientific experiments to test how biotic and abiotic factors influence the ecosystem.
- **DOWN BY THE BANKS:** Students construct a model to simulate a creek, learning how the shape, plants and soil types affect water flow.
- **MAKING SPACE:** Students learn how populations of species are affected by the amount of space available within a community.
- **FOOD CHAIN:** Students explore the important roles organisms play as energy is transferred within a food chain.
- **MY FUTURE, MY VISION:** Students creatively design the future of open space, balancing the needs of plants and animals, including people.

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**SCHOOL PROGRAMS on THE RESERVE at RANCHO MISSION VIEJO**

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Field trips and assemblies can be scheduled throughout the school year. For details and registration, please call 949.489.9778 or email Education Coordinator, Bonnie McQuiston at [bmcquiston@rmvreserve.org](mailto:bmcquiston@rmvreserve.org).

 **THE RESERVE**  
AT RANCHO MISSION VIEJO