

CHICO CREEK NATURE CENTER – Aquatic Investigations
Spring months only

Focus:

In this hands-on exploration of Big Chico Creek, students will learn about the riparian and aquatic habitats of Bidwell Park.

Pre-visit Activities: Life Cycle of Insects, Properties of Class Insecta

Post-visit Activities:

NATURE CENTER VISIT: (Time: 90 minutes)

Pre-visit assessment: What animals and plants live in the creek?

FIELD: Hands-on in the creek. Observe natural habitat. Record physical conditions. Naturalists and students will explore and discuss the life cycles and adaptations of aquatic insects, amphibians and fish, their places in the food web, and the impact of pollution on the creek.

LAB: Review specimens from the creek with magnifying loupes (each student will have one), and microscopes.

Compare still, murky pond, with clear, fast running creek.

End-of-visit assessment:

Field and Lab experiences can be modified to focus on the Science Content Standard of Grades 2 – 6.

Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Life Sciences		
2. Predictable life cycles b) sequential stages – frogs, insects	3. Structural adaptations a) Plant and animal structures/functions for survival in creek habitat b) diverse life forms in different environments	2. All organisms need energy and matter a) plants are primary source b) producers and consumers c) decomposers 3. Living organisms depend on one another and on their environment for survival. a) ecosystems characterized by living and nonliving components b) in any environment, some plants and animals survive well, some don't
Investigation Skills		
4. f) Use magnifiers and microscopes to observe	5. Careful investigations e) Collect data.	6. Ask meaningful questions conduct careful

features		investigation
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Grade 5	Grade 6
Life Science	Ecology/Life Science
2. Plants and animals have specialized structures for respiration, digestion, waste disposal etc.	5. Organisms in ecosystems exchange energy and nutrients among themselves and with the environment. a) energy enters ecosystems as sunlight b) matter is transferred through the food web c) organisms categorized by function in an environment e) abiotic factors determine number and types of organisms
Science Investigation Skills	
6. a)classify objects f) Appropriate tools to collect data.	7. b)Appropriate tools to collect data.