

# Land Ecosystems Webquest



Resources developed by San Mateo County Office of Education's (SMCOE)  
Environmental Literacy and Sustainability Initiative (ELSI) • Last updated June 2022

**Purpose and Overview of WebQuests:** WebQuests are self-guided learning tools. Using this tool, you can construct your own understanding by choosing which sources are most useful.

You can:

- Choose the Order - Explore resources in any order you want!
- Choose the Duration - Some resources you might glance through quickly, while others you might spend more time reading carefully.
- Choose to Go Beyond - Consider the resources in the WebQuest just a starting point. Let the links take you to other sources that deepen your learning.

**\*\*\*You should click on at least one resource in each section\*\*\***

## SECTION I: Land Ecosystems and Biodiversity Basics

As you navigate through the resources below think about these questions:

- A. *What are ecosystems?*
- B. *What are some types of ecosystems that are on land?*
- C. *What is biodiversity?*
- D. *Why is biodiversity important?*
- E. *What is California biodiversity like?*

### What are Land Ecosystems?

- [Ecosystems \(Britannica\)](#)
- Video: [Ecosystems](#)
- U.N. Sustainability Goals: [Life on Land](#)

### What is Biodiversity?

- [Biodiversity \(Britannica\)](#)
- Article: [What are Biodiversity Hot Spots?](#)
- Video: [What is a Biodiversity Hot Spot?](#)

### California Biodiversity

- National Geographic: [California](#)
- Video: [California Biodiversity](#)
- iNaturalist Observations: [California Biodiversity Day 2019](#)

## SECTION II: Natural and Built Environment

As you navigate through the resources below think about these questions:

- A. *What is the natural environment?*
- B. *What is the built environment?*
- C. *What types of human activities are causing problems with natural environments?*

- Video: [Natural and Built Environments](#)
- Interactive: [Why are we losing nature?](#)
- Video: [Human activities that threaten biodiversity](#)

## SECTION III: Land Ecosystems Solutions

As you navigate through the resources below think about these questions:

- A. *What does it mean to conserve land and biodiversity?*
- B. *Why do humans want to protect ecosystems?*

- Article: [Wildlife Conservation](#)
- Video: [Ecosystem Services](#)
- [California Protected Species Lists](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation at Schools](#)