
Five Senses Nature Walk



Fifth-Grade Teacher Resource Guide

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Five Senses Nature Walk: Lesson Summary and Vocabulary

Lesson Summary: YSI's *Five Senses Nature Walk* takes students outdoors for a chance to physically explore nature in the Bay Area. Students will discuss their five senses and go over trail rules with their YSI instructor before heading off to see, hear, touch, smell, and taste their way through a short hike. Just under an hour will be spent on the trail. Natural features vary strongly by program site, but an emphasis is placed on native plants and animals, wilderness safety, and experiencing nature in ways that are often overlooked. Students will learn to avoid poison oak, identify common uses of their local flora, and understand the way a landscape changes over time. All hikes will focus on observation and critical thinking skills and use group discussion to share and build on student discoveries.

Vocabulary: Below are words and concepts that relate to the YSI *Five Senses Nature Walk* program.

Adaptation: In biology, a change in an organism over time that better enables it to survive and multiply. An adaptation can be structural, physiologic, or behavioral.

Camouflage: blending in with an environment

Creek: a flowing body of water smaller than a river; stream

Deciduous: a type of tree that loses its leaves at a certain time of year

Decomposer: an animal that feeds on dead matter and breaks it down into simpler compounds

Ecosystem: a community of living things, together with their environment

Environment: the sum of everything that surrounds animals and humans in the natural world, including the air, the water, and the soil

Evergreen: a type of plant that keeps its leaves or needles all year round

Habitat: the natural environment of a plant or animal

Niche: the part of an ecological system occupied by a particular organism, or the functions of that organism in the system

Oak Tree: a tree belonging to the beech family that has acorns as its fruit

Poison Oak: a common West Coast plant that causes itching and has leaves in groups of three

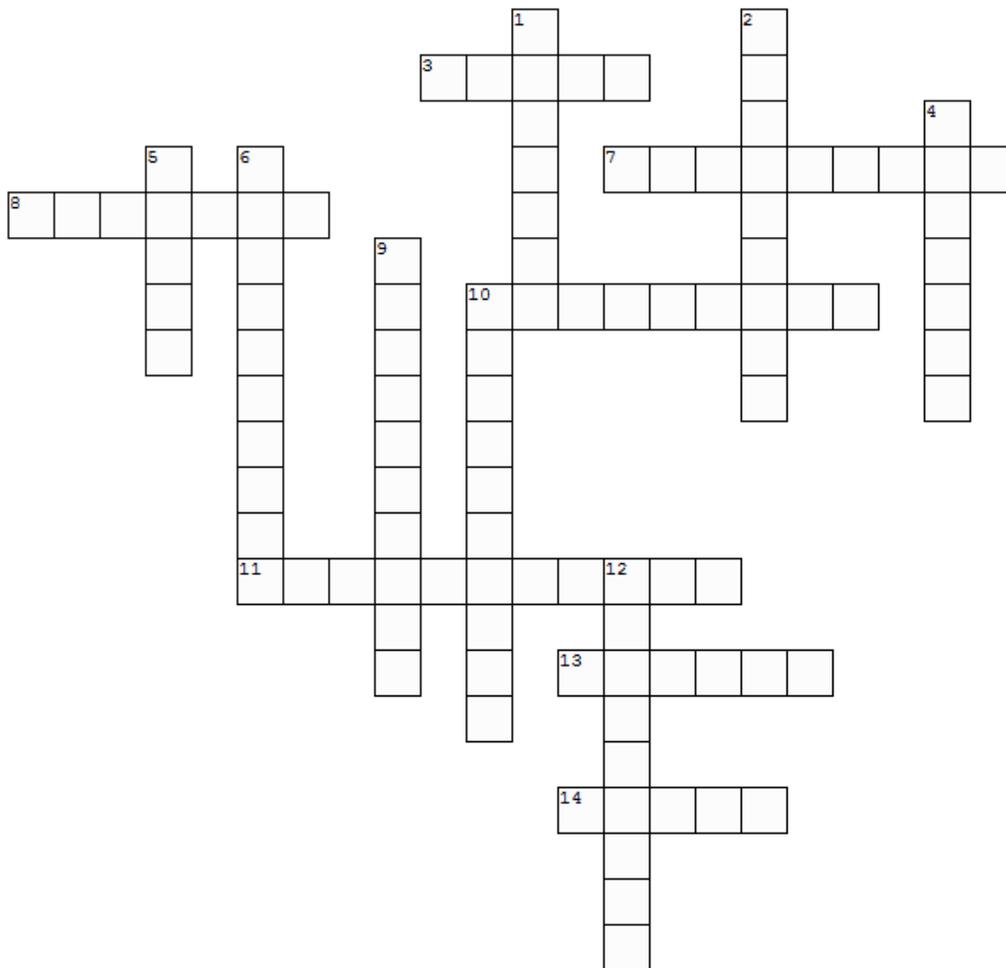
Redwood: an extremely tall species of tree with red bark; any tree in the *Sequoia* genus

Senses: the parts and functions of our body that make us keenly aware of our environment; seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting

Trait: a distinguishing feature or characteristic, as of one's appearance, personality, or nature

Definitions based on www.dictionary.reference.com

Five Senses Nature Walk Language Arts Crossword Puzzle



CAMOUFLAGE	DECIDUOUS	EVERGREEN	POISON OAK	OAK TREE	ECOSYSTEM	
TRAIT	NICHE	REDWOOD	ENVIRONMENT	CREEK	SENSES	DECOMPOSER
		ADAPTATION	HABITAT			

Down

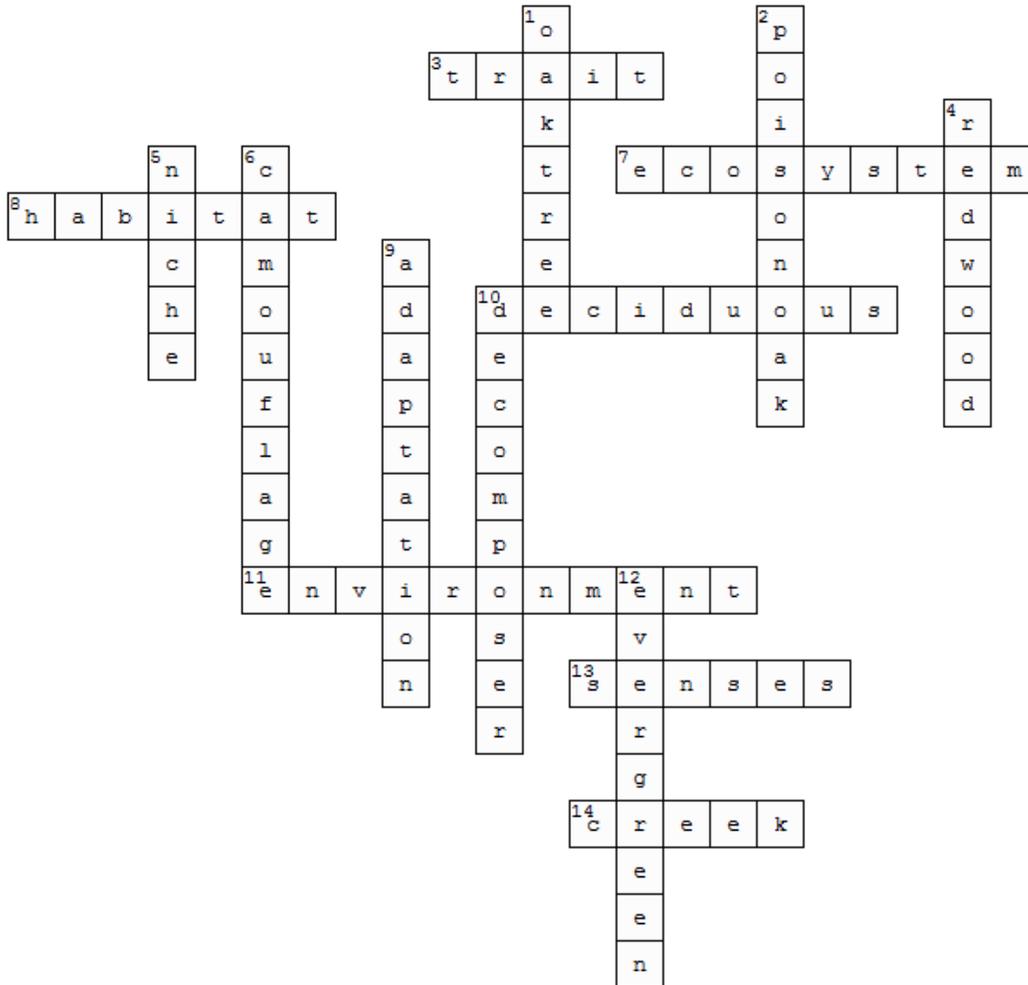
1. A tree belonging to the beech family that has acorns as its fruit.
2. A common West Coast plant that causes itching and has leaves in groups of three.
4. An extremely tall species of tree with red bark; any tree belonging to the *Sequoia* genus.
5. The part of an ecosystem occupied by an organism or how it helps the system.
6. Blending in with an environment.
9. In biology, a change in an organism over time that better enables it to survive and multiply. This feature can be structural, physiologic, or behavioral.
10. An animal that feeds on dead matter and breaks it down into simpler compounds.
12. A plant that has leaves or needles all year round.

Across

3. A distinguishing feature or characteristic, as of one's appearance, personality, or behavior.
7. A community of living things, together with their environment.
8. The natural environment of a plant or animal.
10. A tree that loses its leaves at a certain time of year.
11. Everything that surrounds animals and humans in the natural world, including the air, the water, and the soil.
13. The parts and functions of our body that make us keenly aware of our environment; seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting.
14. A flowing body of water smaller than a river, similar to a stream.

Answer Key

Five Senses Nature Walk Language Arts Crossword Puzzle



Down

1. A tree belonging to the beech family that has acorns as its fruit (**oak tree**).
2. A common West Coast plant that causes itching and has leaves in groups of three (**poison oak**).
4. An extremely tall species of tree with red bark; any tree belonging to the *Sequoia* genus (**redwood**).
5. The part of an ecosystem occupied by an organism or how it helps the system (**niche**).
6. Blending in with an environment (**camouflage**).
9. In biology, a change in an organism over time that better enables it to survive and multiply. This feature can be structural, physiologic, or behavioral (**adaptation**).
10. An animal that feeds on dead matter and breaks it down into simpler compounds (**decomposer**).
12. A plant that has leaves or needles all year round (**evergreen**).

Across

3. A distinguishing feature or characteristic, as of one's appearance, personality, or behavior (**trait**).
7. A community of living things, together with their environment (**ecosystem**).
8. The natural environment of a plant or animal (**habitat**).
10. A tree that loses its leaves at a certain time of year (**deciduous**).
11. Everything that surrounds animals and humans in the natural world, including the air, the water, and the soil (**environment**).
13. The parts and functions of our body that make us keenly aware of our environment; seeing, hearing, smelling, touching, and tasting (**senses**).
14. A flowing body of water smaller than a river, similar to a stream (**creek**).

Five Senses Nature Walk Language Arts Word Search

Circle the vocabulary in the word search below. Can you find all the animal-related words?

Q	T	I	P	Y	P	U	F	B	L	D	J	T	Q	T	H
D	O	O	W	D	E	R	R	G	R	E	C	R	P	P	O
L	L	V	K	U	D	X	T	A	I	C	W	A	X	O	X
O	X	L	C	N	K	G	N	J	S	O	B	I	E	I	Y
E	T	Q	N	J	J	P	E	A	J	M	A	T	G	S	D
V	J	K	O	I	P	K	M	S	U	P	O	S	A	O	E
E	A	A	I	U	M	X	N	W	P	O	B	K	L	N	C
R	Z	M	T	Q	I	C	O	Q	L	S	L	G	F	O	O
G	E	K	A	E	W	M	R	Y	H	E	R	H	U	A	S
R	H	T	T	E	S	J	I	I	A	R	O	X	O	K	Y
E	C	A	P	R	E	M	V	B	Z	P	I	P	M	J	S
E	I	T	A	T	S	B	N	N	I	P	C	H	A	K	T
N	N	I	D	K	N	W	E	X	W	G	A	Y	C	R	E
H	H	B	A	A	E	D	E	C	I	D	U	O	U	S	M
E	G	A	D	O	S	Q	P	L	R	Q	B	Y	Y	N	F
C	P	H	V	L	C	R	E	E	K	V	M	G	I	K	A

Word Bank

ADAPTATION
CAMOUFLAGE
CREEK
DECIDUOUS
DECOMPOSER

ECOSYSTEM
ENVIRONMENT
EVERGREEN
HABITAT
NICHE

OAK TREE
POISON OAK
REDWOOD
SENSES
TRAIT

Five Senses Nature Walk: Extension Activities

The extension activities listed below are from RAFT (Resource Area For Teaching). RAFT educational content is available online (www.raftbayarea.org) at no cost and is aligned to California Science Standards and Next Generation Science Standards. Below is a selection of post-visit activities from RAFT to extend student learning about the five senses and their local ecosystems.

[RAFT Idea: Nature Book - Resource Area For Teaching - RAFT Bay Area](#)

Grades Covered: K through 12

Subjects Covered: Life Science, Earth/Space Science, Language Arts, Art

Curriculum topics: Journaling, Bookmaking, Observing

Create this artistic and outdoorsy book from easily found materials.

<http://www.raftbayarea.org/ideas/Nature%20Book.pdf>

[RAFT Idea: The Germinator - Resource Area For Teaching - RAFT Bay Area](#)

Grades Covered: K through 8

Subjects Covered: Life Science

Curriculum topics: Botany, Plant Growth, Scientific Method

Create a reusable germinator that gives students an unobstructed view of sprouting seeds.

<http://www.raftbayarea.org/ideas/The%20Germinator.pdf>

[RAFT Idea: Be Prepared - Resource Area For Teaching - RAFT Bay Area](#)

Grades Covered: 3 through 8

Subjects Covered: Earth/Space Science, Social Studies

Curriculum topics: Natural Hazards, Emergency Preparedness, Community Studies

Evaluate potential natural hazards and develop plans to address the dangers.

<http://www.raftbayarea.org/ideas/Be%20Prepared.pdf>

[RAFT Idea: Reason for the Seasons - Resource Area For Teaching - RAFT Bay Area](#)

Grades Covered: 3 through 8

Subjects Covered: Physical Science, Earth/Space Science

Curriculum topics: Seasons, Angle of the Earth's Axis to the Sun, Concentration of Sunlight

Description: Use a flashlight to simulate the angle of the sun...

<http://www.raftbayarea.org/ideas/Reason%20for%20the%20Seasons.pdf>

Five Senses Nature Walk: Education Standards

The following page cites California Science Content Standards, Common Core Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards which students will be exposed to during the program.

California Science Content Standards Fifth Grade:

Investigation and Experimentation:

Scientific progress is made by asking meaningful questions and conducting careful investigations. As a basis for understanding this concept and addressing the content in the other three strands, students should develop their own questions and perform investigations. Students will:

- a. Classify objects (e.g. rocks, plants, leaves) in accordance with appropriate criteria.

Excerpted from CA State Standards: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/>

Common Core Fifth Grade:

Speaking and Listening Standards: Students will...

1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on *grade five topics*, building on each others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
 - a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.
 - b. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.
 - c. Pose and respond to specific questions by making comments that contribute to the discussion and elaborate on the remarks of others.
 - d. Review the key ideas expressed and draw conclusions in light of information and knowledge gained from discussions.

Excerpted from Common Core Standards: <http://www.corestandards.org/>

Next Generation Science Standards Fifth Grade:

Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems

- **5-LS1-1:** Support an argument that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water.
 - **Science and Engineering Practices**
 - **Engaging in Argument from Evidence:** Engaging in argument from evidence in 3–5 builds on K– 2 experiences and progresses to critiquing the scientific explanations or solutions proposed by peers by citing relevant evidence about the natural and designed world(s).
 - Support an argument with evidence, data, or a model. (5-LS1-1)
 - **Disciplinary Core Ideas**
 - **LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms:** Plants acquire their material for growth chiefly from air and water. (5-LS1-1)
 - **Crosscutting Concepts**
 - **Energy and Matter:** Matter is transported into, out of, and within systems. (5-LS1-1)

Excerpted from NGSS: <http://www.nextgenscience.org/>