

Santa Ynez River Estuary [Ocean Beach Park]

Where the river flows through Solvang, long-standing pools are formed and riparian habitat supports unique flora and fauna in the system strikingly different from the surrounding valley and hills. Here we look at the geology of the watershed that extends 90 miles through the full catchment. The geology of erosion including material dispersion and local rock formation can be studied here.

The steelhead restoration project is a part of the history of this river system that includes the story of the migratory ocean-going fish and the conservation efforts to maintain their habitat. We usually see migratory and residential birds. Short trails provide opportunities for discovering local plants including mule fat, Willow, coyote bush, and Cottonwood.



Appropriate for Grades 4 – 8

Available Field Trip Emphases: *Geology, Ecology (including Watershed and Riparian habitats)*

Led by experienced and enthusiastic Nature Track docents, field trips at Santa Ynez River Estuary [Ocean Beach Park] are designed to be used as a companion to state science standards and provide a real-life experience for students in geology and ecology. Docents can lead students in trips that focus on the appropriate grade level and subject and engage students in exploration of science and nature through hikes, guided discussion, and educational nature games. Nature-based art and other creative projects are also available.



Field Trips at Santa Ynez River Estuary can be used in conjunction with the following California State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards:

Geology Field Trip

Grade	CA Standards	Next Generation
K	Earth Sciences: 3a	Energy: K-PS3.B
2	Earth Sciences: 3a, 3b, 3c	Earth's Place in the Universe: 2-ESS1.C; Earth's Systems: 2-ESS2.A, 2-ESS2.B, 2-ESS2.C
4	Earth Sciences: 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 5c	Earth's Place in the Universe: 4-ESS1.C; Earth's Systems: 4-ESS2.A, 4-ESS2.B; Earth and Human Activity: 4-ESS3.A
5	-	Earth's Systems: 5-ESS2.A, 5-ESS2.C; Earth and Human Activity: 5-ESS3.C
6	Earth Sciences: 1b, 1d, 1e, 1f, 2a, 2b, 2d; Investigation & Experimentation: 7f, 7g	Standards for 6-8: Earth's Place in the Universe: MS-ESS1.C; Earth's Systems: MS-ESS1.C, MS-ESS2.A, MS-ESS2.B, MS-ESS2.C; Earth and Human Activity: MS-ESS3.A, MS-ESS3.C, MS-ESS3.D
7	Life Sciences: 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4f	See Above
8	-	See Above



Ecology Field Trip

Grade	CA Standards	Next Generation
K	Life Sciences: 2a, 2c	From Molecules to Organisms: K-LS1.C; Earth's Systems: K-ESS2.E, K-ESS3.C; Earth and Human Activity: ESS3.A
1	Life Sciences: 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e	From Molecules to Organisms: 1-LS1.A, 1-LS1.B; Heredity: 1-LS3.A, 1-LS3.B
2	Life Sciences: 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f	Ecosystems: 2-LS2.A; Evolution: 2-LS4.D
3	Life Sciences: 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e	From Molecules to Organisms: 3-LS1.B; Ecosystems: 3-LS2.D; Heredity: 3-LS3.A, 3-LS3.B; Evolution: 3-LS2.C, 3-LS4.A, 3-LS4.B, 3-LS4.C, 3-LS4.D
4	Life Sciences: 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d	From Molecules to Organisms: 4-LS1.A, 4-LS1.D; Earth's Systems: 4-ESS2.E
5	-	Energy: 5-PS3.D, 5-LS1.C; From Molecules to Organisms: 5-LS1.C; Ecosystems: 5-LS2.A, 5-LS2.B
6	Earth Sciences: 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e	Standards for 6-8: From Molecules to Organisms: MS-LS1.B, MS-LS1.C; Ecosystems: MS-LS2.A, MS-LS2.B, MS-LS2.C, MS-LS4.D; Heredity: MS-LS1.B; Evolution: MS-LS4.C
7	Life Sciences: 2a, 3a, 3e, 5a, 5f	See Above
8	-	See Above

