

Life in the Zone

Rangers in the Classroom—Pre-visit Lesson Plan



Grade Level: 4th

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 45 min —1 hour

Standards Addressed:

° Written and Oral Language Conventions:

1.1, 1.2, 1.3

° Listening and Speaking Strategies:

1.2, 1.5, 1.6, 1.9

° Visual and Performing Arts:

5.3

Introduction:

Welcome to Rangers in the Classroom! We are looking forward to visiting your class for our Life in the Zone program about the life zones within Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. To help prepare your class for the ranger visit, we have created a pre-visit activity to introduce your students to some of the concepts we will cover in our program. If you are interested in additional preparation, the program outline includes a vocabulary list and can easily be found on the website at:

<http://www.nps.gov/seki/forteachers/index.htm>.

By exploring a few concepts and vocabulary words with your students prior to our visit, you will help us hit the ground running.

Have fun and we'll see you soon!

Materials:

- ° “Central Valley Life Zone” worksheet
- ° Pen or pencil
- ° Poster paper or paper for folding brochures
- ° Computer access for students
- ° Markers, crayons, colored pencils

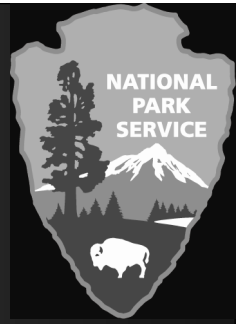
Instructions:

1. Get students in pairs or small groups.
2. Hand out the “Central Valley Life Zone” worksheet.
3. Have students complete the worksheet in an effort to learn about their life zone—the Central Valley.
4. Have students make a poster or brochure advertising life in the Central Valley.
5. Tell students the poster should include images and information about the life in the Central Valley.
6. Ask the students to create a slogan encouraging people to visit the Central Valley.
7. Ask students to present their advertisement/poster to the class.

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Rangers in the Classroom—Pre-visit Activity

The Central Valley Life Zone



A life zone is a community with different plants, animals, and climate. Life zones are usually associated with specific elevations.

You live in the Central Valley of California. Your elevation is about 200—400 feet above sea level. How would you describe the Central Valley life zone? Answer the following questions with complete sentences to help guide your thinking. You may do some research to fully answer these questions.

1. Describe the weather conditions here in the summer.

2. When does it usually rain the Central Valley? How often does it rain during this season?

3. If you didn't have a hose to water them, would it be easy or hard to grow plants here in the summer? Why?

4. What kind of wild animals (**not pets**) do you see in the Central Valley?

5. What kind of soil do we have in the valley? Are there lots of large rocks? Is it sandy or more like clay?