

Life in the Zone

Rangers in the Classroom—Post-visit Lesson Plan



Grade Level: 4th

Setting: Classroom

Duration: 1 - 2 hours

*Should be broken up
into 3-4 30 minute sessions

Standards Addressed:

° Writing Strategies:

1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4

° Writing Applications:

2.1, 2.3

° Written and Oral Language
Conventions:

1.1 - 1.7

Introduction:

Thank you for joining us on an exciting adventure into the world of life zones with our Life in the Zone program. We created this post-visit activity to review, reinforce and enrich your students' understanding of what life is like in the different life zones found in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. Please refer to the program outline we provided during our visit to your class for additional sources of information. We hope you enjoyed the ranger visit and invite us back soon.

Have fun!

Materials:

° Paper

° Pencils

° Colored pencils, markers, or crayons.

Instructions:

1. Teacher will assign each student an animal from the Life Zones presentation. (e.g. Pika, Ptarmigan, Douglas Squirrel, Black Bear, Mule Deer, Coyote, Clark's Nutcracker, Peregrine Falcon, or Yucca Moth).
2. Students will determine which life zone(s) their animal lives in. (Foothills, Montane or Alpine).
3. Teacher will assign each student a pen-pal in class, who is a different animal.
4. Each student will write a letter to their assigned pen pal.
5. The letter should include a drawing plus details about what the animal eats, where it lives, what the weather is like, and how the animal has adapted to its life zone. The student should ask his/her pen-pal at least three questions about their life.
6. Once the letters have been "delivered," each student should draft a reply to their pen-pal answering the three questions asked in the first letter.