

Using the Outdoor Classroom

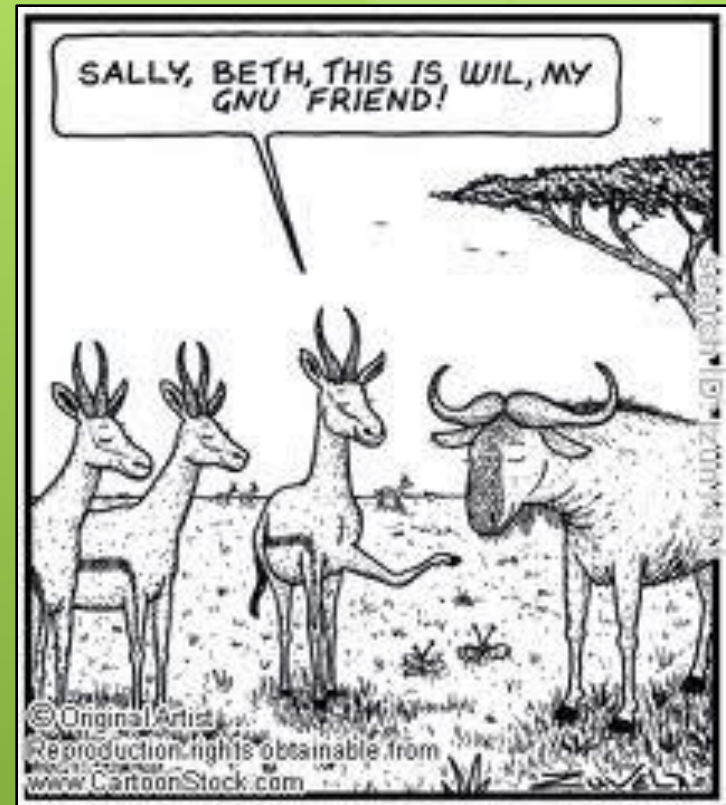
PAGE
MUSEUM
LA BREA TAR PITS

Introductions

Have you taught
outside before?

What was a benefit?

What was a challenge?



Why Teach Outdoors?

- Nature learning is interdisciplinary & supports multiple kinds of learning goals – increasing student achievement across subjects.
- Nature learning encourages critical thinking and other life skills.
- Nature has a positive impact on physical, emotional & psychological health.
- Increasing Ecological Literacy increases quality of life.



Biodiversity

What is it?

The sum of all biological diversity, including diversity among ecosystems, communities, species, and genes.

Who cares?

Maintaining a wide diversity of species in each ecosystem is necessary to preserve the web of life that sustains all living things.

- CA Biodiversity Council



“All of us need to
breathe, drink and eat”

– *Heather Parker, blogger*

Biodiversity
WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

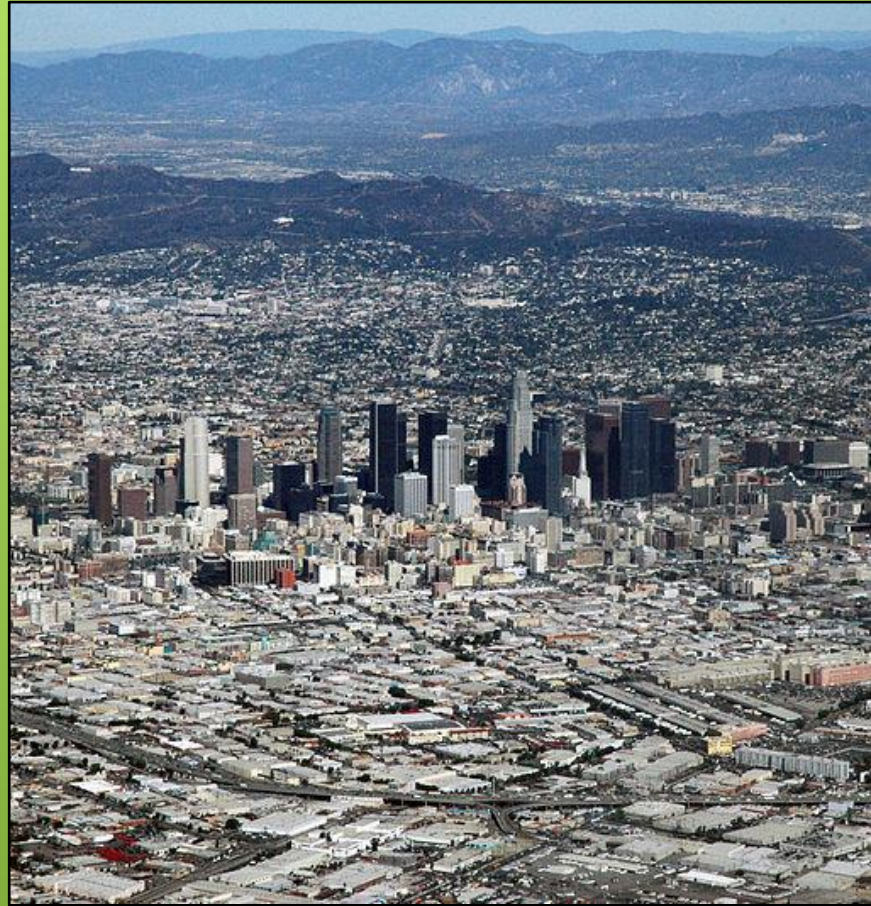
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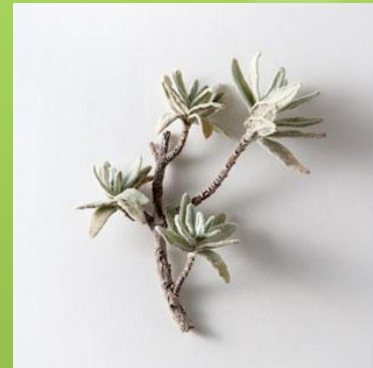
Where To Go

EVERYWHERE!

- State & National Parks
- Local Parks
- School Yards
- Back Yards
- Gardens
- Downtown
- The Page Museum!

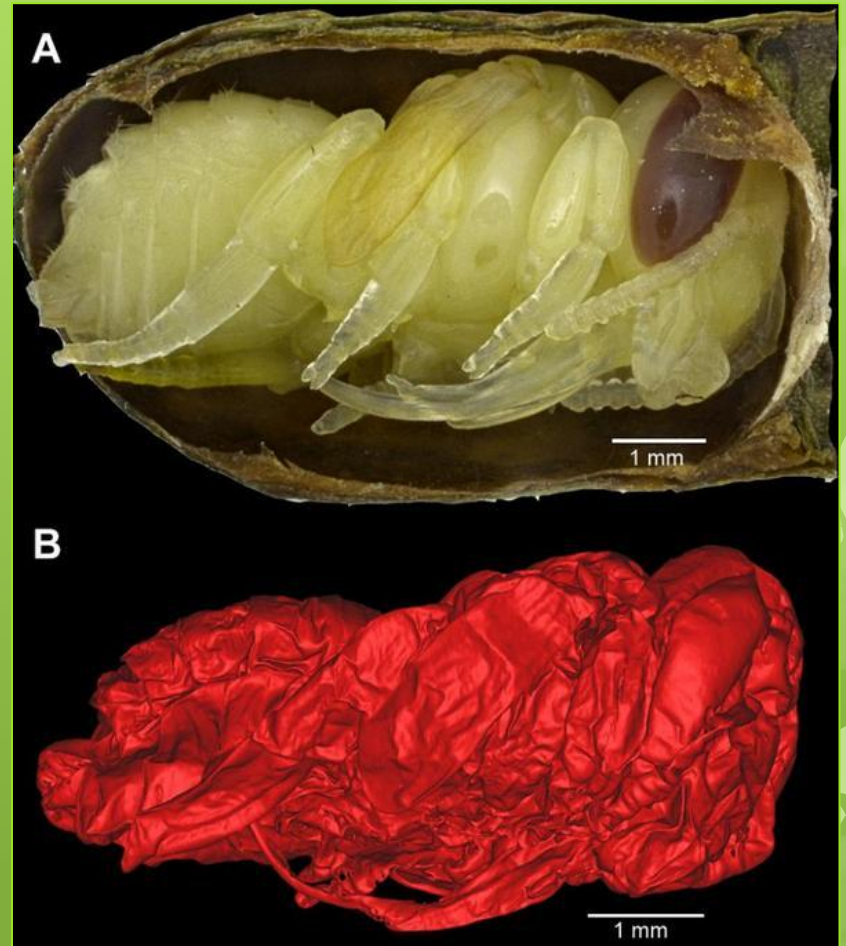


The Pleistocene Garden



Fossil Insects From the La Brea Tar Pits

- Climate
- Plant Life
- Changes in biodiversity over time



Nature Journaling

- An easy, cost-effective way for students to engage with the natural environment.
- Requires no prior experience.
- Builds observation skills.
- Students can use their nature journals throughout the year, and have a collection of observations, sketches and notes.



Insect Netting

- Can be done virtually anywhere there are plants and insects.
- Can help alleviate fears of bugs and being outside.
- Encourages students to look closely at their surroundings.
- Bugs can tell us a lot about the environment!





<http://www.inaturalist.org/>