

Teacher Preparation

Nature's CLUES



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Nature is full of clues – if you know how to find them!

In Nature's Clues, students will become nature investigators as they look closely, gather evidence, make observations and uncover the stories hidden all around them.

We will begin with an engaging nature walk where students can learn more about our preserve and landscape. Then, through hands on activities and collaborative challenges, students will practice thinking like scientists before putting their new knowledge to the test in a final surprise. But shh... please don't tell them what's coming!



GRADES 3 - 5



~ 2 HOURS



**RANCHO CAÑADA DEL ORO
OPEN SPACE PRESERVE**

**QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT
EDUCATION@OPENSPEACEAUTHORITY.ORG**



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DURING THIS PROGRAM, STUDENTS WILL...

- Participate in an engaging nature walk to learn more about our preserve and wildlife, specifically highlighting how humans and animals influence the world around them
- Practice making careful, detailed observations
- Examine natural clues and evidence to make predictions and draw conclusions
- Ask questions and communicate what they notice
- Work collaboratively to solve problems and interpret clues
- Apply their observation, knowledge and reasoning skills during a surprise challenge
- Discover how naturalists and scientists use evidence to better understand the natural world, and the influences humans and wildlife have on their environment



KEEP THE MYSTERY ALIVE!

We have a surprise planned! Near the end of Nature's Clues, students will have an opportunity to put everything they've learned to the test through a collaborative challenge.

Please help us preserve the surprise by not sharing the details with students ahead of time.

PREPARE FOR YOUR PROGRAM

- No prior knowledge of local plants or wildlife is needed.
- Encourage students to arrive ready to observe, investigate, ask questions and work together.
- Students will work collaboratively during portions of the program, so teachers can help by reinforcing respectful communication and teamwork.
- Please avoid frontloading specific clues, activities or challenges that students may encounter. Discovery is an important part of the experience.
- Please follow all clothing, footwear, weather and other field trip preparation requirements outlined in the School Leader Preparation Guide.

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BEFORE YOUR VISIT

Please thoroughly review the School Leader Preparation Guide before your scheduled visit and complete all necessary preparations and documentation.

The guide contains important information about arrival, transportation, what to bring, what to wear, group expectations and other field-trip logistics.

GET STUDENTS THINKING

Before your visit, choose an ordinary object in the classroom and challenge students to name three things they can observe about it.

Encourage them to look closely and be specific. Then ask, "What do you think you can figure out based on what you noticed?"

Don't tell them why they'll need these skills – we'll take it from there!