

California Grizzly Bear Reintroduction Unit

The California Grizzly Research Network



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Lesson 1

Video Guide Lesson

Time:

45 minutes (depending on class discussion)

Supplies:

- 1.Pencil/Pen
- 2.Video Guide
- 3.Video Crossword
- 4.Video Wordsearch
- 5.Creative Writing/Drawing Homework Handout

Educational Outcomes:

- 1.Students gain an understanding of the history of the California Grizzly Bears.
- 2.Students will be able to identify important dates related to the California Grizzly.
- 3.Students will think critically about human and animal interactions.
- 4.Students can identify bias in the media provided.
- 5.Students will interpret information and synthesize it.
- 6.Students will identify trends in human and animal interactions.
- 7.Students can articulate the cultural and ecological impacts that grizzlies had/have.

NGSS Standards fulfilled:

- 1.SEP-7: Engaging in Argument from evidence
- 2.SEP-4: Analyzing and interpreting Data
- 3.SEP-8: Obtaining, Evaluating, and Communicating Information
- 4.Environmental Principle I
- 5.Environmental Principle II
- 6.Environmental Principle III
- 7.Environmental Principle V

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Steps:

1. Pass out video guide to students
2. Play the video *California Grizzly - Yosemite Nature Notes - Episode 30* from YouTube (see link).
3. Instruct students to answer the guide questions as they go. Pause if needed.
4. If following discussion suggestions, marked in purple on the video guide answer key, allow students to break off into groups to discuss those questions, or have one big class discussion.
5. Pass out crossword and word search for students to work on if desired. They are in the “Busy Work” folder.
6. Take an initial tally of how many believe that we should reintroduce the CA grizzly if we could. Ask students to defend their stance.
7. Can assign “Reimagining the California Grizzly Bear: Recreating Our State Flag” as an in-class assignment, homework assignment, or extra credit opportunity for students. Can also assign students to complete all of the creative ideas or choose two to do.

[Link to Video](#)

Additional Video Resources:

[This video](#) introduces the concept of trophic cascades, an important concept when thinking about animal reintroductions, through the lens of wolf reintroduction in Yellowstone National Park. Although the video is not explicitly regarding Grizzly Bears, the same concepts from this video can be applied to them as well. Ask your students how they think that bears shape their ecosystem.

[This video](#) explains bear conservation efforts in Yellowstone park and shows some of the work that bear biologists do. This could be added to the bear biologist role packet but would also be valuable to show the whole class. It also touches on human-wildlife conflict.

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Name:

Date:

California Grizzly - Yosemite Nature Notes - Episode 30

1. Who are the sponsors of the video shown in the beginning? Is this important? Why or why not?
2. What is the name of the indigenous people of present-day Yosemite National Park?
3. How do you think the California grizzly bear symbolizes Californians?
4. In what parts of California did the California Grizzly Bear live?
5. There were _____ grizzly bears in California at the time of statehood.
6. There were no more grizzly bears in California by _____.
7. Why did the California Grizzly Bear go extinct?

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8. Who was James Adams?

9. James Adams had a hunting camp at the headwaters of _____ river.

10. Who was Ben Franklin (in the context of the video)? Why was he important?

11. Ben Franklin's obituary was titled _____.

12. What does the obituary's title imply?

13. What is James Adams' home state? Is that ironic? Why or why not?

14. According to the video, the last California Grizzly Bear was killed in Yosemite in _____.

15. Why did Wells and Duncan want to kill the Grizzly?

16. How does the music add to the tone/mood of the video?

17. What points of view did the video include? What points of view did it lack? (ex: politicians, historians, etc.)

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Video Guide

Name:

Date:

California Grizzly - Yosemite Nature Notes - Episode 30 Video Guide Answer Key

1. Who are the sponsors of the video shown in the beginning? Why is this important?

National Parks Service and Yosemite Conservancy. This shows that the video is going to be focused on Yosemite, and what might be best for the park.

2. What is the name of the indigenous people of present-day Yosemite National Park?

Miwok. Also correct: Moieties, Aheli, and/or Uzunati

3. How does the California Grizzly Bear symbolize Californians?

Our persistence, never-say-die attitude, undaunted, heroic

4. In what parts of California did the California Grizzly Bear live?

All over the state

5. There were 10,000 grizzly bears in California at the time of statehood

6. There were no grizzly bears in California by 1925.

Great jumping off place to discuss human impacts on ecosystems, specifically CA Grizzly Bear populations

7. Why did the California Grizzly Bear go extinct?

Humans hunted them into extinction

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8. Who was James Adams?

A mountaineer and Grizzly Bear Hunter. He capitalized on the mystique and romance of the frontiersman and had animal museums.

9. James Adams had a hunting camp at the headwaters of Merced river.

10. Who was Ben Franklin (in the context of the video)? Why was he important?

James Adams' favorite pet bear. He was important because he showed the close relationship between Grizzly Bears and Man

11. Ben Franklin's obituary was titled Death of a Distinguished Native Californian.

12. What does the title imply?

That he was an actual resident of California and not just a bear.

Good place to bring up irony, that we treated some bears like citizens while hunting them to extinction

13. What is James Adams' home state? Why is that ironic?

Massachusetts. This is ironic because he capitalized on native Californian culture and animals like the California Grizzly.

14. According to the video, the last California Grizzly Bear was killed in Yosemite in 1887.

15. Why did Wells and Duncan want to kill the Grizzly?

The bear was killing their livestock.

16. How does the music add to the tone/mood of the video?

It creates a somber, sad, bleak, etc. mood. This question is more open ended.

17. What points of view did the video include? What points of view did it lack? (ex: politicians, historians, etc.)

Many answers can be accepted. Very open ended. Points of view included examples: historians, indigenous culture experts, bear experts. Points of view missing: scientists, politicians, citizens, land developers.

Might be a good place to have a discussion about the many different types of people affected by CA grizzlies and brainstorm what roles should be involved when talking about reintroducing them.



Lesson 1 Activity

Reimagining California without the Grizzly Bear: Recreating Our State Flag

Instructions: You've been added to a design committee by the California Governor to recreate our state flag because Grizzly Bears no longer exist in California. Every person on the committee must submit a new design for the state flag using the same color scheme (green, red, and white) replacing the California Grizzly Bear with any person, place, or thing that is abundant in California. You can draw this on paper or create it on your computer. You must include a few sentences that articulates your rationale for choosing this new Californian symbol.