

*Climate Science &*  
**CARNIVORES**



climate kids  
**traveling trunk**



The Climate Science & Carnivores Traveling Trunk contains the resources and lessons needed for educators to help students gain a better understanding of the role large predators play in Southern California ecosystems and food webs, how they are being impacted by climate change, and how scientists are working to develop resilient solutions through habitat connectivity. The hands-on science activities, storytelling, and art materials in this trunk specifically target students from lower Elementary through Middle School based on Next Generation Science Standards, and can be adapted for most K-12 classroom settings and grade compositions. Using real data that is regionally-specific, the activities in this trunk will bring to life carnivores and ecosystem biology, help students investigate wildlife connectivity in urbanized landscapes, and help them understand how existing stressors such as habitat fragmentation and development are exacerbated by the changing climate. Most importantly, students will work to develop their own solutions to help reduce the impacts of climate change in their communities and help protect the Earth and all its inhabitants.

## overview

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**Grade Level:** Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary, Middle School

**Subject Areas:** Science, Fine Arts, Language Arts

**Duration:**

- Preparation time: Part I (Science): 25 minutes; Part II (Art): 25 minutes; Part III (Storytelling): 15 minutes
- Activity time: Part I (Science): 1 hour; Part II (Art): 1 hour; Part III (Storytelling): 1 hour

**Setting:** Classroom, Field Trip Site (reach out to [info@climatesciencealliance](mailto:info@climatesciencealliance) for our list of recommended field trips!)

**Vocabulary:** Adaptation, Carbon Dioxide, Carnivore, Climate Change, Connectivity, Culvert, Drought, Ecosystem, Encroachment, Food Web, Fossil Fuel, Greenhouse Gas, Habitat Fragmentation, Precipitation, Predator, Prey

**Essential Question:** What is climate change and how will it affect carnivores and their ability to find food, water, shelter, and raise young?

**Summary:** While participating in the Climate Kids activities of art, science, and storytelling, students will gain a better understanding of what carnivores are, the importance of them in our region, and how they will be affected by a changing climate and human activity.

**Objectives:**

Students will:

- Learn about various southern California carnivores
- Understand basic concepts that support wildlife connectivity
- Analyze carnivore specimens and determine traits/characteristics of carnivores
- Explore the impacts of climate change and increased human activities on these species
- Interpret climate data on drought and precipitation changes
- Develop solutions for carnivores to adapt to increased human activities
- Create and design artwork to portray impacts on or solutions for carnivore resiliency

## what's inside

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***Climate Change Primer:***

- Heat Trapping Blanket Demonstration
- The Incredible Carbon Cycle Game
- Greenhouse Gas Game
- Climate Kids “10 Things” Posters (English and Spanish)

***Carnivores Science Module:***

- Carnivore Faux Skull Models
- Carnivore Connectivity Maps and Photos
- Carnivore Faux Pelts
- Magnifying Glasses
- Worksheets

***Storytelling Books:***

- Earth's Fever
- Fever on the Land
- Here Now, Gone Tomorrow
- Carnivores
- Fire Race: A Karuk Coyote Tale of How Fire Came to the People
- Coyote at the Big Time

- Coyote: A Trickster Tale from the American Southwest
- Wildfire
- How Jackrabbit Got His Very Long Ears
- One Day at Batiquitos Lagoon

***Art Ideas:***

- Craft Examples
- Climate Kids Coloring Book

***Activities, Resources & Worksheets:***

- Teacher Curriculum Binder
- USB with powerpoint

***Tribal Perspectives:***

- Tribal Climate Educational Repository
- Tribal Perspectives Children's Books (listed above)
- Kumeyaay Curriculum and Teacher Guide

***Regional Impacts:***

- San Diego Ecosystems Assessment (developed by the Climate Science Alliance, this report provides data about climate change impacts specific to San Diego county that students can analyze. More information can be found here: <https://www.climatesciencealliance.org/sdc-ecosystems-assessment>).
- Pocket Guide
- Regional Impacts Game Cards
- 10 Things for Wildlife Poster