

3

History-Social
Science Standards
3.1.1. and 3.1.2.

Supports
ELA Standard:
Reading 3.1.5.



The Geography of Where We Live

California Education and the Environment Initiative

Approved by the California State Board of Education, 2010

The Education and the Environment Curriculum is a cooperative endeavor of the following entities:

California Environmental Protection Agency
California Natural Resources Agency
Office of the Secretary of Education
California State Board of Education
California Department of Education
California Integrated Waste Management Board

Key Leadership for the Education and Environment Initiative:

Linda Adams, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency
Patty Zwarts, Deputy Secretary for Policy and Legislation, California Environmental Protection Agency
Andrea Lewis, Assistant Secretary for Education and Quality Programs, California Environmental Protection Agency
Mark Leary, Executive Director, California Integrated Waste Management Board
Mindy Fox, Director, Office of Education and the Environment, California Integrated Waste Management Board

Key Partners:

Special thanks to **Heal the Bay**, sponsor of the EEI law, for their partnership and participation in reviewing portions of the EEI curriculum.

Valuable assistance with maps, photos, videos and design was provided by the **National Geographic Society** under a contract with the State of California.

Office of Education and the Environment

1001 I Street • Sacramento, California 95812 • (916) 341-6769
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/Education/EEI/>

© Copyright 2010 by the State of California
All rights reserved.

This publication, or parts thereof, may not be used or reproduced without permission from the Office of Education and the Environment.

These materials may be reproduced by teachers for educational purposes.



Lesson 1 Geographical Features of Our Region

My Local Region 2

Lesson 2 Natural Features of Our Local Region

My Local Region 2

Lesson 3 Using Our Local Region

My Local Region 2

Lesson 4 Changes in Our Local Region

My Local Region 2
Making Changes—Agriculture 4
Making Changes—Construction 6
Making Changes—Recreation 8
Making Changes—Transportation 10

Name: _____

Instructions: Write the information in each section. (5 points each)

**Geographic Features:
Landforms**

Natural Features: Living

How We Use Our Local Region



**Geographic Features:
Bodies of Water**

Natural Features: Nonliving

**How We Change Our Local
Region**

Name: _____

Instructions: Read the story with your group. Then read each question and talk about the answers with your group.

The Jones Family

The Jones family wants to start a new farm in your local region. The family plans to cut down some trees to clear a place for crops and plow the soil. They will use fertilizers to help the plants grow. They will also use chemicals to keep pests from eating the crops. If all goes well, they will sell their food at the farmers’ market near your house. You will be able to buy fresh vegetables.

Questions:

1. What is one way that the Jones’ farm might help people in our region?

2. What is one way that the Jones’ farm might harm people in our region?

Name: _____

3. What is one way that the Jones' farm might help other living things in our region?

4. What is one way that the Jones' farm might harm other living things in our region?



Name: _____

Instructions: Read the story with your group. Then read each question and talk about the answers with your group.

The Hart Company

The Hart construction company wants to build new homes in your local region. The company plans to cut down some trees to clear a space for the houses and for roads to get to the houses from other places. Machines will be used to make the land flat. The company will build small homes that do not cost a lot. Many people will buy the homes and live in the new community. They will need a school and stores, too.

Questions:

1. What is one way that the new community might help people in our region?

2. What is one way that the new community might harm people in our region?

Name: _____

3. What is one way that the new community might help other living things in our region?

4. What is one way that the new community might harm other living things in our region?



Name: _____

Instructions: Read the story with your group. Then read each question and talk about the answers with your group.

The Water Company

The government of our local region knows that we need to store water for times when there is not much rain. Our leaders have decided to build a dam on a river in our local region. The Water Company that controls our water will make the plans for the dam and hire people to build it. The dam will stop some water from flowing in the river. Water behind the dam will flood the land and create a lake. People will be able to boat and swim in the lake.

Questions:

1. What is one way that the building of the dam might help people in our region?

2. What is one way that the building of the dam might harm people in our region?

Name: _____

3. What is one way that the building of the dam might help the other living things in our region?

4. What is one way that the building of the dam might harm the other living things in our region?



Name: _____

Instructions: Read the story with your group. Then read each question and talk about the answers with your group.

The Bike Club

There is a lot of traffic on some of the roads in your local region. Some people want to make the roads wider. The people in the Bike Club want the government to build a bike path instead. People could use the path to bike to work and school. To build the bike path, trees will be cleared from a strip of land along the river. The path will be paved so that it is easy and safe for biking. The leaders hope that if people can bike safely and easily, there will be fewer cars on the road.

Questions:

1. What is one way that building the bike path might help people in our region?

2. What is one way that building the bike path might harm people in our region?

Making Changes—Transportation

Lesson 4 | page 2 of 2

Name: _____

3. What is one way that building the bike path might help other living things in our region?

4. What is one way that building the bike path might harm other living things in our region?





California STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

California Education and the Environment Initiative