



Tour Theme: Animals (grades 6-8)

Post-Visit Activity #1: The Great Debate

Read the following statement to the class (*information obtained from Springs Preserve, Nov. '07*):

In 2003 the detention basin now known as the Springs Preserve was mostly dry, bare, and devoid of life. Biologists found only 2 kinds of birds. As of December 2006, the biologists have identified over 250 species of wildlife ranging from invertebrates to mammals, of which 152 are birds.

Remind students of what they saw in the satellite images from 1997 and 2007, and what they inferred from those images. Divide the students into small groups of 3 to 4 each. Each group should generate two questions to evoke information, and two evaluative questions.

Students can conduct a roundtable discussion to discuss the questions and information they have gathered. Then the students will debate the pros and cons of developing the Springs Preserve and working to restore the cienega found there. Evaluate the process with the students.