



Theme: Animals (Grades 6-8)

Pre-Visit Activity #2 That Was Then; This Is Now

Overview:

By looking at aerial photographs of the Springs Preserve site from 1999 and 2008, students will see the changes the site has undergone and determine how those changes affect wildlife on the site.

Objectives:

- Students will compare and contrast satellite images.
- Students will make inferences.
- Students will participate in a class discussion.

Materials:

- Satellite photographs of the Springs Preserve site from 1999 and 2008 (copies for each group)

Background:

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 October 2009, the biologists have identified over 250 species of wildlife ranging from invertebrates to mammals, 149 of which are birds.

Activity:

1. Divide students into small groups (3-4 students per group).
2. Students will examine satellite images from 1999 and 2008, to compare and contrast the parcel of land now known as the Springs Preserve (south of US 95, north of Alta, east of Valley View Blvd.).
3. Students will record their observations on a T-Chart.
4. Each group should generate two questions to evoke a discussion.
5. Groups should share their observations and questions with the class.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think the major differences are between the 1999 and 2008 images?
2. What inferences can you make about this parcel of land based on what you have seen in the satellite images?

3. What evidence supports those inferences?
4. Do you need more information? If so, what?
5. Do you think more wildlife lived on the site in 1998 or 2008? Why?

Students can conduct a roundtable discussion to discuss the questions and information they have gathered.

Springs Preserve 1999



Springs Preserve 2008

