

**Grade 8 Social Studies: Summative Assessment**  
**Digital Nature Journal**

**Name:**

**My sense of Place:**

**Statement:**

Like a personal journal or diary a nature journal is a place to record our observations and to reflect on them, but unlike a diary, a nature journal is used specifically to record our observations of, and thoughts on, nature.

**Question:**

*How has "my place" changed?*

**To complete this assignment:**

- **Record** all our excursions into nature. Write down what you see, feel and notice; add photos as well.
- Your nature journal will focus on “**your place**” (within the Cochrane Ranch Reserve) and you can choose what living things you want to focus on (trees, insects, animals)
- Your nature journal will **chronicle** each time we go out.
- Your nature journal will chronicle “the big picture” as well as one particular plant or bush of your choice in “your place.”
- Each time we go out, take a photo of “the big picture” as well as “your place” so that you can organize, record and evaluate the changes which occur.
- **Observe the world around you.** Creating a nature journal is much less about writing and drawing than it is about observing. **Sit silently** and contemplate your environment or your chosen subject.
- **Do your writing on location.**
- **Begin each entry with the location, date, and time.** You will need to be very specific, and include basic information, such as weather specifics, scientific descriptions of plant, etc..
- **Be Descriptive** so that another person could pick up your journal 100 years from now and be able to picture the bird you wrote about and learn about it even if that bird no longer exists
- Write how you feel. If you feel awestruck by a mountain or calmed by the sight of a bee on a flower, go ahead and put that in your journal. A nature journal gives you an opportunity to respond to the natural world, and writing your response can help you understand who you are – and maybe even your place in the universe.
- Don't censor yourself; don't edit as you go along. Just let your thoughts flow freely onto the paper.

- **Choose your own style.** You may develop a consistent style for each entry into your journal, or you may just write and sketch in whatever manner feels right at the moment. How you write and how you structure your journal are choices that you alone can make. Some people like to write their entries as though they're writing a letter to a friend or to themselves. Others like to include poems or little stories. Just write.

## **Outcomes Covered**

### **Social Studies:**

- Through this inquiry, students will reflect on their own worldviews and assess the influence that the past has had on the present.

### **Language Arts:**

#### 1.1 Discover and Explore:

- Express ideas and develop understanding

#### 2.1 Use Strategies and Cues:

- Identify and use visual and textual cues to access information effectively and efficiently

#### 2.3 Appreciate the artistry of texts

#### 3.1 Plan and Focus:

- Experiment with several ways to focus a topic.
- Plan and organize data collection

#### 3.3 Organize, Record and Evaluate:

Organize ideas and information creatively, as well as logically, to develop a comparison or chronology

Enhance and Improve \* Revise and Edit (all)

### **Science**

- Investigate living things; and identify and apply scientific ideas used to interpret their general structure, function and organization
- Compile and display data, by hand or computer, in a variety of formats,

## **Assessment**

This is a year-long Science, Social Studies and LA assignment. See Separate Rubric