

Lesson Plan 7: GIS Week 4 – Humans and condors

Unit Question: What role does the California condor play in the California ecosystem, and how do changes in the ecosystem impact condors over time?

Science and Engineering Practices:

- Developing and Using models
- Asking Questions

Teacher Prep: Have google earth application downloaded on student computers/tablets. Have the GPS data shared, or ready to share with students.

Lesson: *(Two class periods)*

Warm up: [Watch](#) FWS Biologist Joseph Brandt enter a condor nest in the wild. Have students write what they wonder on post it notes for the question board.

1. Ask students to keep this question in mind as they do the GIS activity:

Guiding Question: *Where could condors interact with humans? How might they interact with each other?*

- *Direct vs Indirect Impacts: identify in next lesson*
- *Positive vs Negative Impacts: identify in next lesson*

3. Using a GIS – Google Earth (Week 4 Data)

- Guiding Question: How could condors and humans interact, and where do you think they would interact? How could they impact each other?
- Have students use their [GIS Datasheets](#)
- Have them collect data for their assigned condor for Week 4.
- Teacher will enter the student's data into the [Teacher Database](#). Or have a student representative from each group enter the data into the Teacher Database.
- After the activity, have students write 1-2 additional questions that they have (based on what they observed from the GIS activity) on Post-Its. Have students add their questions to the question board.

3. Reflection – Based on what you observed today, where might condors have interacted with humans this week?

- Have students write or draw their reflection. This should be a personal exercise and sharing should not be expected.

Extend (optional)

Watch the [Condor Creation Story](#) – Have students write a story about how an animal of their choice got to be the way it is today. Their story should have at least 3 components: 1. how it was before 2. what happened 3. how that made the features we see today. Stories should include illustrations!