

Northwest California

How Climate Nurtures Diversity

Statement of Inquiry:

Northwest California has complex climate due to a variety of factors including ocean currents and geological complexity. These factors, when considered together, increase regional biodiversity—which is easiest to see and understand through the conifer (cone-bearing trees) diversity.

Essential Questions:

- What role does climate play in plant diversity?

Objectives: I can...

- Explain why climate is variable across the region (knowing/understanding)
- Use and reflect on the effects of higher and lower precipitation levels (processing/evaluating)
- Connect to current research done by scientists at Humboldt State University (reflect on impacts of science)

Overview: Students will gather information on regional climate and interpret how that affects tree diversity in both coastal and mountain environments. Students will demonstrate their understanding by writing about the different requirements of four conifer species (two coastal and two mountain) and the environments in which they grow.

Key science vocab:

- Climate
- Weather
- Conifer

Outline:

Students read through the document, reflect on the reading by answer questions, and share out with a group (small or class) discussion.