

Lab #1 Group Activity: California Atlas Activity

This assignment will prepare you for the field classes in the coming weeks.

Assignment:

Check out an Atlas of the Biodiversity of California from the SRC and use the Atlas, maps on the walls and the internet to answer the following questions in your Journal for **entry #1**.

Define or describe the following terms:

population, ecosystem, biodiversity, species, species richness, biological hotspot, habitat, habitat fragmentation, Genetic diversity, population bottleneck, Wildlife corridor , Biological Hotspot

Map Work:

- Draw a map of California (see map in 2nd floor) Label major mountain ranges, rivers and valleys highlighting the 37th parallel region- fill one page with your map
- On this map draw in the 37th parallel

Answer the following using the Atlas:

- Why is California such a “special place” for biodiversity? (pg. 2-3)
- How many endemic vascular plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and freshwater fishes are in California?
- Draw the rarity and richness hotspots in the US.
- Where is the highest plant, amphibian, reptile, bird, mammal and freshwater fishes richness in California (name the general areas) and why?
- Look closely at the richness maps and how they relate to where you live.
- Name 5 types of habitats that are unique to California and list 2 species that are found in each habitat type.