

## Studying to be Stewards of Creation

**7th grade "INVESTIGATORS"** curriculum is designed to reinforce science concepts learned at school through experiential education since studying the natural environment cannot always occur within the classroom setting. Students can increase their knowledge of the Creator and His handiwork directly by observing and exploring the outdoors.

The **Investigators** curriculum is centered on collecting and analyzing data about the natural world, and considering the students' role in being stewards of God's Creation.

**Analyzing Animals:** This class focuses on the needs of animals, and how human and environmental factors affect their survival, individually and as a species. Students observe animals in their habitats and use a simulated ecosystem to learn how human activity can affect the survival of a species. CA Science Standards 3d, 3e, 5a

**Exploring the Night Sky:** The amazing view of the heavens introduces the students to astronomy. Students learn characteristics of some of the basic components of the universe God has made. Students are able to identify some constellations as they extensively observe the stars and other visible heavenly bodies (weather permitting). CA Science Standard 6f

**Interdependence/Land Use Study:** Students become part of a research team and begin the week by learning characteristics that are important for teamwork. By using a variety of problem-solving games, the students work together to find solutions. These activities emphasize interdependence, both in the Christian community and in natural ecosystems. Student groups are introduced to a land use study, developing ideas for how to best utilize the natural community. CA Science Standards 7a, 7c, 7d

**Investigating Foundations:** Students conduct a detailed analysis of soil, measuring characteristics such as texture, structure, and compaction. Activities include a series of physical and chemical tests, and use of models to evaluate the quality and use of the soil. CA Science Standard 7a

**Land Use Proposal/Stewardship:** In the final class, students analyze the data they have collected during the classes throughout their week to develop an appropriate plan of land use that demonstrates good stewardship. Students are challenged to examine their impact on God's creation, their role as stewards, and their specific responsibilities to preserve what God has given to us. CA Science Standards 7a, 7c, 7d, 7e

**Probing Producers:** Focusing on plants as a vital member of the natural community, students examine the life cycles of plants with an emphasis on pollination and seed development. Observing the structural diversity among plants, students classify some of the indigenous plants using appropriate field guides. CA Science Standards 3d, 5a, 5f

**Surviving in the Wilderness:** This class focuses on how God provides our basic needs for survival through His Creation. Students learn the importance of maintaining body heat and how to use the natural resources in the area to build a shelter. They also learn how to secure water and food, specifically wild edibles.

**Water You Know:** This class involves an in-depth study of water as an essential component of the ecosystem. Students measure the quality of the available water supply by using various chemical tests and examining the diversity of life in and around the water. Students discuss how humans can influence the quality and availability of the water supply. CA Science Standard 7c