

For the Environmental Sciences:

For all of the following questions:

- How do you know? (What evidence is there?)
- What does it tell you about past environments?
- What does it imply about the future?

Describe how life shapes the land.

- What are the pioneer plants?
- How do pioneer plants impact soil formation?
- How are animals shaping the land?
- Are there invasive species? If yes, what are they and how are they changing the ecosystem?
- Have disturbances played a role in the introduction of invasives? If yes, describe.
- How are new invasives likely to change the ecosystem over the next century?

Describe the role of water in the ecosystem.

- In what ways does water serve or disturb habitats?
- How does life move, use, and store water?

How has climate shaped the ecosystem?

- How is the climate reflected by living things at the site?
- Describe any microclimates and how they affect life.
- Describe how sun and shadow affect life.
- What is the role of fire, hurricanes or other climate-related disturbances in shaping this landscape?

Describe the role rocks and soil play in the ecosystem.

- How does life change the rocks and soil at the site?
- How is life dependent upon the rocks and soil at the site?
- Does the rock record include evidence of ancient disturbances? If yes, describe.
- See also the geoscience questions.

Describe the types and arrangements of plants and animals and what they indicate about present and past environments.

- Why do living things in the environment look the way they do?
- What life forms were the earliest to arrive?
- Describe how different life forms are distributed throughout the field site.
- What is the impact of invasive species and other disturbances?
- See also: Describe how life shapes the land.

Plants

- How have plants shaped the landscape?
- How has the landscape shaped plants?

Animals

- How do animals contribute to plant distribution?
- How has the landscape shaped plants?

What effects have humans had on the landscape?

- What resources do humans use from here?
- How have humans changed the landscape?
- On what scale?

