

# Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Environmental Education Program

Field Program  
Home means Red Rock  
Teacher Version  
Revised 1/10/01

**Grade:** 4

**Subject:** Nevada State Symbols

**Theme:** Students will explore the home of the Desert Tortoise, Desert Bighorn Sheep, Indian Rice Grass, Big Sage, Mountain Bluebird, and Sandstone.

**Curriculum:** Life Science (4) 2.1 students are expected to “describe and compare structures and characteristics of plants and animals.  
Social Studies (4) 2.5 students will be able to recognize and describe the symbols of Nevada and where to find them. (e.g. song, bird, flower, mammal, grass, rock)

**Objectives:** Students will name 2 plant state symbols  
Students will name 2 animal state symbols  
Students will understand the diversity and uniqueness of the habit of the Great Basin

**Background Information:** Nevada state symbols were chosen to reflect the diversity and uniqueness of life in the Great Basin. Several of the state symbols are contained or make their home in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. The habitats of these living symbols are described and compared. All people and living things have several basic needs that must be met for their “home”. These basic needs may be categorized as follows: food, water, protection, reproduction (of the culture or life form) and space. What must be satisfied is universal. How needs are satisfied are either culturally influenced or due to adaptations/ evolution. These adaptations often are more complex than may be obvious.

Archaeologists rely on objects that people made (artifacts) and where they left them (context) to learn the story of past people. Archaeologists preserve the context of artifacts they recover from sites by recording the location of everything they find. Biologists also record the context of different habitats to understand the needs of living things. This includes the geology, water, influences of other animals and plants, as well as, influences of people.

## **Vocabulary:**

**Context:** Relationship items have to each other and a situation in which they are found.

**Habitat:** Where an object, usually living, is found and includes its food, water, shelter (how it protects itself,) and space (including how it reproduces).

**Symbol:** a visible thing that stands for or represents something invisible or intangible.

## **Pre-Site Activity - Part 1**

### **Comforts of Home activity**

Students will compare their need to change their modern daily activities to early Southern Nevada residents and their needs, especially as the seasons changed, and the needs of Nevada living symbols. Use **Comparing Cultures** activity sheet for each student.

## **Setting the Stage**

List on the board student's responses to the following: What do you need to have in order to live? What did your great-grandmother need? What does a child in Africa need? What will future humans need? What needs do animals have to live? Are these needs different from people needs? How?

## **Procedure**

- Students discover through the "Setting the Stage" activity that humans everywhere have similar needs. Now, help students categorize their list. They may have some categories that are different from the above, but they should at least have those four. Scientists do not all agree.
- Distribute the "Comparing Cultures" activities sheet to the students. Write the category of basic needs (food, shelter, etc.) down on the vertical column on the chart's left side. Choose another culture to analyze- such as early pioneers, Paiute or Pueblo cultures, and assign individuals or groups one of the "living symbols" of Nevada.
- The students construct the chart, comparing and contrasting the basic needs as they are met.
- In a class discussion, students compare and contrast our culture with other cultures and other living things.
- Students should bring these sheets with them on their field trip.

## **Site Activity: Welcome to site**

### **Introduction to the Conservation Area**

#### **What do you need in your "home"**

## **At the Visitor Center (30 minutes)**

Mapping the home of the state reptile and state grass.

## **At Sandstone Quarry (1 hour)**

Visiting the state Rock and habitat of the state mammal, tree, and Nevada's early pioneers/residents.

## **Lunch at Sandstone Quarry**

The students need to be dressed and ready to do a short hike and field activities. They should bring pencils and their pre-visit activities.

Water and flush toilets are available at the Visitor Center.

## **Post Field Trip**

### **Activity 1**

Pass out the lyrics to "Home means Nevada" to each student. Using the description have the students create a picture of what Nevada looks like to them. Discuss why they have chosen to make the picture that way. Are there mountains? What types of plants are there? What animals live there? What information is missing to understand the complete story of the area..

## **Post Field Trip**

**Activity 2:** The more objects and information there is the more complete the picture of your "Home" you can make. Many states are adopting state insects, and other symbols. Have your class research and "nominate" a state insect. Send us a proclamation with information and reasons to nominate your insect.

**Home Means Nevada**  
Written by Mrs. Bertha Raffetto

'Way out in the land of the setting sun,  
Where the wind blows wild and free,  
There's a lovely spot, just the only one  
That means home sweet home to me.

If you follow the old Kit Carson trail,  
Until desert meets the hills,  
Oh you certainly will agree with me,  
It's the place of a thousand thrills.

Chorus

Home, means Nevada, Home, means the hills,  
Home, means the sage and the pines.  
Out by the Truckee's silvery rills,  
Out where the sun always shines,  
There is the land that I love the best,  
Fairer than all I can see.  
Right in the heart of the golden west  
Home, means Nevada to me.

Whenever the sun at the close of day,  
Colors all the western sky,  
Oh my heart returns to the desert gray  
And the mountains tow'ring high.  
Where the moon beams play in shadowed glen,  
With the spotted fawn and doe,  
All the live long night until morning light,  
Is the loveliest place I know.

Chorus

Home, means Nevada, Home, means the hills,  
Home, means the sage and the pines.  
Out by the Truckee's silvery rills,  
Out where the sun always shines,  
there is the land that I love the best,  
Fairer than all I can see.  
Right in the heart of the golden west

## Home Means Red Rock Canyon Comparing Needs Worksheet

Basic Needs	Is it here at Red Rock Canyon (Y/N)?	Native Americans Name: _____	Settlers (1500's to 1930's)	US (1930's to present)	Nevada State Living Symbol Name: _____
Food					
Water					
Protection From Weather (how keep cool/warm)					
Protection From other dangers (how do they keep from being eaten)					
What type of house do they live in?					