

Grades: 4-5

SciGirls, “Habitat Havoc”

This series showcases bright, curious real girls putting science and engineering to work as they answer questions and make unexpected discoveries in the world around them. Budding naturalist Lea and her SCIGIRLS pals investigate what the non-native Canary Island Palm does to San Diego habitats, comparing the palms to native trees.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- Cite evidence from the video that demonstrates features/characteristics of the historical figures.
- What did you learn after watching this program?
- What is the program’s purpose? How do you know?
- What are the key details in this program?
- What is the central message in this program? Explain?
- What is ecology?
- What is a naturalist?
- What two trees is the ecologist studying? Why? Which is the native plant to the area? Which is the non-native plant to the area?

Determine a question and determine a plan:

- Why are the SciGirls interested in investigating non-native plants in San Diego?
- What question do the SciGirls decide to ask?
- What investigations do they plan?

Test:

- Why is it important to be consistent when collecting data?
- Why are multiple data points important? And to get as many data points as possible.
- What type of data do the SciGirls collect?

Share:

- What conclusions do the girls come to about the different impacts on the ecosystem?
- How do they share their findings with their classmates?
- What changes do they decide to make to their environment?
- What results do they hope to see?

Question Box 2

- How would you have responded to a situation from the video differently than the participants?
- What was one section of the text(video) that stood out for you and why?

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- What was your favorite part of the program and why?
- What was most challenging or least interesting about this program?
- What about the show stood out to you?
- Do you think “Habitat Havoc” is an appropriate title for this episode? Explain why?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Describe how the SciGirls used science to compare the Canary Island Palm to native palm trees.
- Define what it means when a species is referred to as “indigenous.”

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Research and describe the job of a naturalist. Please include training and education needed to qualify for the job.
- Research and describe one other invasive organism near your home.
https://cirs.ucr.edu/invasive_species/all
- Click [Habitat Havoc](#) download the pdf in “Related Links” and complete.

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Research and describe the problems the Zebra Mussel has caused worldwide.
- What can you do to protect your community from invasive species?