

Chaparral Discussion Questions *III - The Spring*

CLASS SET – PLEASE RETURN!!

Discussion Questions: respond in complete sentences (in class)

- 1) **Compare your late winter/spring observations with your fall observation for the general area.**
- 2) Look at the **map** of your **fall study site** and your **winter and spring study site**. Has the site changed in topography, soil moisture, temperature, plant density(# of plants), type of plants, shade & light patterns? If it has changed, can you give an explanation for this difference?
- 3) In general, **compare your winter and spring study site observations** with your **fall study site observation**. Did you observe the same things (plants/animals)? Suggest an explanation. (discuss the habitat, adaptations, resource availability, etc..)
- 4) Exactly **why** do you think that the organisms in your study site were there? **What** other parts (living and non-living) of the study site do you think that the organisms are interacting with? **How** do you think they interact with each other, e.g. plants obtaining sun light energy so that they may photosynthesize, or insects obtaining nectar for energy?
- 5) Pick one interesting organism (plant or animal) that you observed, what **specific adaptations** do these plants or animals have **to help it to survive in the environment** that you observed. **Use the map of your study site and the drawings of the organisms that you found to help you remember what the organisms looked like and what the arrangement of your study site was.**
- 6) Pick two organisms (plant or animals) that are native to this environment **that you did not see** in your investigation. Discuss an explanation for why you did not see them.
- 7) Identify the resources (food, water, and shelter) for one of the organisms you observed. Give the name of the organism you are referring to.
- 8) Write out a food web (using arrows) that involves all of the organisms that you encountered in this investigation. **Show all of the possible interactions.** **Note:** you may have to add some organisms that are common to the area in order for the food web to be detailed.
- 9) Based on your field studies **from the fall and spring**, and your understanding of ecology, do ecosystems and communities remain static, or do their compositions (populations) of plants and animals change in response to natural forces (biotic & abiotic factors)? **EXPLAIN.** (Hint: look at all of your data from both seasons)

