

Lesson Plan 11: Question Formulation Technique

Unit Question: What role does the California condor play in the California ecosystem, and how do changes in the ecosystem impact condors over time?

Science and Engineering Practices:

- Asking Questions

Warm Up: [Watch](#) former* Santa Barbara Zoo Nest Biologists Erin Arnold in action!

**She is now a Wildlife Biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service at Hopper Mountain*

Lesson: (one class period)

1. Intro

- Tell students they will have the chance to ask condor conservationists questions and will get written, video, or in class responses*.

**guest speaker may be a US Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Biologists, Santa Barbara Zoo Biologists, or associated volunteer with the Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, and cannot be guaranteed.*

2. [Question Formulation Technique \(QFT\)](#)

- In small groups or partners, have the students generate as many questions as they can that they would want to ask FWS Park Ranger Daniel Cook when he visits their class (5-10 mins).
 - Students can write their questions on post-it notes and put those questions on a piece of poster paper for each group.
- Next have the students label open ended questions with an “O” and close ended questions with a “C”
- Then have the students change one open ended question to a close ended questions. Then they will change one close ended question to an open-ended question.
- Have the students write their new questions on post-its and have them put these questions on the poster paper.
- Have student groups pick their top 3 questions. Have each group share out their top 3 questions. Add these questions to your Question Board.