Santa Ana River Field Trip

First find a comfortable space with your group (3-5) and read the history of the Santa Ana river. You might want to read out loud alternating paragraphs. Then discus the following questions:

How has the river changed in the last 100 years? Why do you think that the riverbanks are concrete? The river bottom is still earth, why do you think that is? Can the river ever be restored to its natural condition? Why or why not? What would be some of the benefits of restoring the river?

1. Describe what you are seeing.
2. What flora/fauna do you see (Plants/animals) Label the producers, decomposers, and level 1,2,3,4 consumers?
3. How would you identify the plants and animals that you were not familiar with?
4. What flora/ fauna do you suspect is around, but you can’t see them?
5. List all abiotic factors in this ecosystem.
6. List all biotic factors in this ecosystem.

6. Pick 3 abiotic or biotic factors. How could you measure them quantitatively. You are going to research them over time, how are you going to collect your data and analyze it. (Ex: Salinity, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, flow velocity, turbidity, light intensity, wind speed, slope, soil moisture, mineral content, trash levels, water level.)

1. On a separate piece of paper, draw a diagram of a terrestrial and an aquatic ecosystem that exists around this river. List all inputs of energy, materials, pollution, and label all trophic levels.
2. What is promoting life in this ecosystem, why?
3. What is limiting life on this ecosystem, why?
4. Identify 3 habitats in and around the river. Point out the components that make them habitats. (water/food, Nest, predator protection, etc).
5. **SUPER IMPORTANT QUESTION** List three research questions you would be interested in pursuing in regards to the Santa Ana River.