



Distance Learning Lesson Plan
Newt Explorations at Filoli's Nature Preserve
Grade Level: 2-5

NGSS Standards

- **LS1.A: Structure and Function**
- **LS1.D: Information Processing**
- **LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems**
- **LS4.C: Adaptations**

Purpose and Learning Objectives:

Newt Adaptations

Animals and plants have evolved remarkable adaptations to help them survive and thrive in Bay Area ecosystems. Filoli's Nature Preserve is a unique setting to explore these interactions because of the great variety of natural and human-made plant communities. These include agricultural fields, a formal garden, grasslands, oak woodlands, redwood forests, chaparral, and riparian zones. In this lesson, we will explore newt adaptations and how their adaptations help them survive in the redwood forest habitat.

Driving Question for This Lesson:

- Primary: What are the adaptations that help a newt avoid or survive attacks from predators?
- Secondary: Why does the shape of a newt's tail help to protect it? What are the benefits of the shape of the newt's tail while on land and in water?

Vocabulary:

- Adaptation
- Evidence
- Habitat

- Natural Community
- Nutrients
- Organisms
- Plant Community
- Predator
- Prey

Materials:

- Written lesson
- Video (embedded in PDF)
- Activity pages