

Working with the Tree of Life

ELC-4046

California NGSS Standards

California has adopted NGSS but with a few state-specific nuances.

1. **CA NGSS: 3-LS3-1 Heredity: Inheritance and Variation of Traits**

- Analyze how traits are passed down from one generation to the next.
- **Explanation:** The discussions about adaptations in reptiles, amphibians, and primates cover how traits are inherited and how they contribute to survival.

2. **CA NGSS: 5-LS2-1: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics**

- Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.
- **Explanation:** Questions about how organisms, such as fungi, crustaceans, and insects, interact with their environments and recycle nutrients relate directly to this standard.

3. **CA NGSS: 4-LS1-1 Structure, Function, and Information Processing**

- Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.
- **Explanation:** Many of the questions ask students to think critically about the physical traits (e.g., gills in fish, wings in birds, or the placenta in

eutherians) and how these structures help organisms survive and reproduce.
