



**ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL**

BAJA EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Professional Development & Field Science
to Bring Your Classroom to Life

On Ecology Project International's (EPI's) Baja Educator Workshop, you'll travel to one of the great sanctuaries for marine life, the Gulf of California. From EPI's sustainably designed campus in La Paz, we'll head into pristine waters alongside local conservation scientists, EPI instructors, and your cohort of educators. Each study and conservation project will become a lens through which we can explore the NGSS* framework, three-dimensional learning, and the development of inquiry-based, thematic storylines.

PROGRAM LENGTH: 5 days

PD HOURS: 20 hours

COLLEGE CREDIT: Optional 2 graduate credits through Hamline University. Separate registration and tuition fees apply.

*NGSS is a registered trademark of Achieve. Neither Achieve nor the lead states and partners that developed the NGSS were involved in the production of this product and do not endorse it.



WORKSHOP SAMPLE ITINERARY

- Day 1** Travel to San Jose del Cabo airport. Meet your EPI instructors and shuttle to La Paz.
- Day 2:** Participate in field activities including microplastic research and using phenomena in lessons.
- Day 3:** Snorkel with whale sharks, pedagogy workshops (5 E lessons, 3D techniques), La Paz exploration.
- Day 4:** Marine census and coral restoration activity; curriculum workshop. Workshop close and celebration.
- Day 5:** Morning shuttle to the San José del Cabo airport; depart.





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The stark landscape of the Gulf of California stands in contrast to the teeming life just below the water's surface. On EPI's Baja Educator Workshop, you'll be immersed in the rich, marine environment of what Cousteau called "the world's aquarium." These waters are home to more than 800 species of fish and 2,000 invertebrates, as well as 39% of the world's marine mammals and 70% of Mexican fisheries.

LIFE AT THE WORLD'S AQUARIUM

We'll engage in a variety of research and conservation activities centered on the spectacular Bay of La Paz. You'll investigate the ecology, local management, and conservation of whale sharks as you snorkel with this enigmatic species. Discover the other players in this nutrient-rich marine environment and what they can tell us about the health of the ecosystem. Then, dig deeper into local conservation issues by exploring the present reality of microplastics on La Paz beaches and their impacts on these species.

THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA IS YOUR CLASSROOM

Throughout the workshop, you'll learn strategies to help your students observe, question, collect data, discuss, and critically analyze the world around them. In addition to first-hand, deep science exploration, you'll have time to collaborate, plan, and write lessons with other science teachers. You'll also have space to share your teaching challenges, best practices, and opportunities to enhance science education with your cohort.

Return home with a template for creating future lessons and unit plans, as well as new resources and peers to support and guide you on your continuing teacher journey. Dive head-first into the NGSS framework using the rich, real-world phenomena of Baja to develop lessons and unit plans that will captivate your students and kindle their passion for science.

SKILL BUILDING

Upon completion of the workshop, you will be able to:

- Create NGSS-aligned lessons using the 5E Learning Cycle
- Inspire students to question, make claims, and provide evidence and reasoning to support claims
- Use research-supported teaching methods, tools, and strategies for supporting students in growing their science and engineering practices
- Understand and implement a variety of field research and conservation methods

