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| What spring wildflower is consistently among the first to bloom here? Which tree buds first? | Team Adapt |
| How far do you have to travel from here before you reach a different watershed? How big is this watershed? | Team H2O |
| What abiotic conditions here set the extremes to which life must adapt? | Team Adapt |
| Name two places on different continents that have similar sunshine/rainfall/wind and temperature patterns to here. Do they have the same biome? | Team H2O |
| What was the dominant land cover plant here 1,000 years ago? | Team Organize |
| Where is the nearest wilderness? When was the last time a fire burned through it? | Team Organize |
| What primary geological processes or events shaped the land here? | Team Communicate |
| What was the total rainfall here last year? What’s the yearly average? How much of that is snow? | Team H2O |
| Name five birds that live here. Which are migratory and which stay put? | Team Adapt |
| How many days is the growing season here (from frost to frost)? | Team Organize |
| How deep is the water table? Where does the water come from? | Team H2O |
| Where is the nearest earthquake fault? When did it last move? | Team Communicate |
| From what direction do storms generally come? What kind of storms are they (i.e. what is the abiotic disturbance regime?) | Team Communicate |
| Name five native edible plants in this ecosystem and the season(s) they are available. | Team Adapt |
| Is the soil, more clay, sand, rock or silt? What does that mean for water drainage? | Team Communicate |

**Getting to know the local ecosystem: homework for the in-person session.**

With your team, please take 15-30 minutes and research your assigned questions. You don't need to write out your answer, but be prepared to verbally contribute on Tuesday during the site overview presented by the biologist at the Great Sand Dunes. Here means the San Luis Valley - not just the area of the park.