TITLE: Wall Art or Gall Art?

Transcription: See pdf—I had immense trouble trying to create a video so all wording is on the powerpoint/pdf.

Presenter Notes:

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Requirements for Discussion: This unit is aimed at a general audience and can be adapted for kids or adults. While galls are found throughout California, species such as oaks, sage brush, willow and shrubs such as chinquapin and huckleberry oak are some easy spots to find your own galls.

Props that would be useful are the galls, of course, and perhaps a dissecting knife and magnifying glass if you open up the galls.

Prep Time: Plan a walk in the woods to collect some gall samples if you are doing the presentation in a classroom setting.

Group questions to focus on:

Focus on the mystery of these amazing shapes before revealing what they are.

Insect life cycles and parthogenesis

Plant genetics and adaptations—you might ask the group what other species use leaves/plants as hosts? Birds/mistletoe/ caterpillars come to mind.

On a more macro level, have a discussion about climate and gall prevalence—are there more or less in drought conditions? Why do you think so?

Discuss other life forms that have a primary and secondary homemakers—review inquilines.

Celebrate beauty and diversity of our planet, have fun!