

WILD ABOUT WATER

Mokelumne Water Shed Word Search

Q T M S P A W N D Y K K B N U
 S K J I E I S K C O O O X P U
 A A K X G S Y D N A L T E W R
 N H L T G R Q N I V L A Q P O
 D F H M S T A Q Q F R O G I E
 H G H Y O W A T E R S H E D Y
 I I R F X N M C E E Z H I G Z
 L F L S M A E R T S P U B G T
 L G T U R T L E H P S I Q E H
 C N O I T A C I F I T L O M S
 R Q D D R G Y D E S U D A K J
 A J E K A S P X A W U W C N R
 N Y R T C L F G P M K U Z F C
 E A U Q Z R E J W O D T L S J
 J Q A H I E J Q T K E A Y Z T

SALMON
 SANDHILL CRANE
 SMOLTIFICATION
 SPAWN
 TURTLE
 UPSTREAM
 WATERSHED
 WETLAND

ALVIN
 DUCK
 EGG
 FROG
 FRY
 MIGRATE
 MUD
 RED

ABBY STROUD/ERMA B. REESE ELEMENTARY

Helping the Mokelumne

By Julian Coronado
 HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

One way we can help Mokelumne River is by not making it dirtier than it already is. We can do that by cleaning up after ourselves. Many animals get sick or die if they eat garbage, especially if they eat plastic. Also, the water we drink at our houses comes from the Mokelumne River. Keeping it clean is healthier for people, too. If we see someone polluting when we visit the lake or the river, we should tell

them to stop. If we go with our families we should probably bring some big plastic bags and gloves, so that we can help clean up while we're there. Lastly, visiting the nature trail will make you want to help keep the Mokelumne River and Lodi Lake clean. When you're in there you will feel happy because you will see many animals, and it is cool and peaceful. By keeping the river and lake clean, you are helping baby animals grow up in a healthy way.

A little about the shells of macroinvertebrates

By Nancy Colin
 HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

Many macroinvertebrates are known to have hard, protective outer layer. Some of the macroinvertebrates that have shells are gastropods, mollusks, snails, clams, etc. ... Animals such as ducks, raccoons and minks eat macroinvertebrates. Snails and mollusks eat algae. Clams eat algae and small organisms. Gastropods eat plankton. Clams can have two shells of equal sizes that is connected by two adductor muscles and that they have a powerful burrowing foot. Pouch snails are known to be distinctive since they have a shells that are considered to be left-sided.

In praise of plankton

By Nimra Gul
 HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

In the environment, many animals are recognized for the important roles they perform to help our environment. For example, honey bees pollinate plants and squirrels are known to plant acorns. But not many people know about plankton. They deserve to be recognized. To begin with, plankton do more than just help the environment, they also help people. First of all, they give us 88% of the oxygen on Earth! Plankton produce oxygen through photosynthesis, which is a process that uses sunlight. The sun light then converts carbon dioxide into sugars that living things use for energy. If all the plankton were to die, it'd be likely for humans to die. Plankton are also helpful because they not only produce oxygen, but also clean

the air. Because plankton like the carbon dioxide, they use it for fuel, reducing the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. It is very important for us humans to breathe in fresh, clean air. And for that, you can thank plankton. If giving humans oxygen is not enough, plankton are also a very important part of the food chain. If plankton were all to die, we would not have healthy fish, or other animals that eat fish (Including humans). Also plankton are easy to catch because they are drifters, meaning they will go wherever the tide takes them. As a result, it will be easy for other small animals to get food. This is why I believe plankton should be recognized for the important roles they play in our environment. We are very dependent on plankton, and without them, we wouldn't be able to survive!

More about plankton

By Juan Mejia
 HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

As you know, most sea creatures swim against the current. You may not know, however, that plankton cannot swim against the current. They are drifters that simply float wherever the current takes them. Plankton are tiny plants and animals. Phytoplankton, the tiny plants, are a needed source of oxygen on the planet. Even though they are tiny they are very important to humans.

Wild art



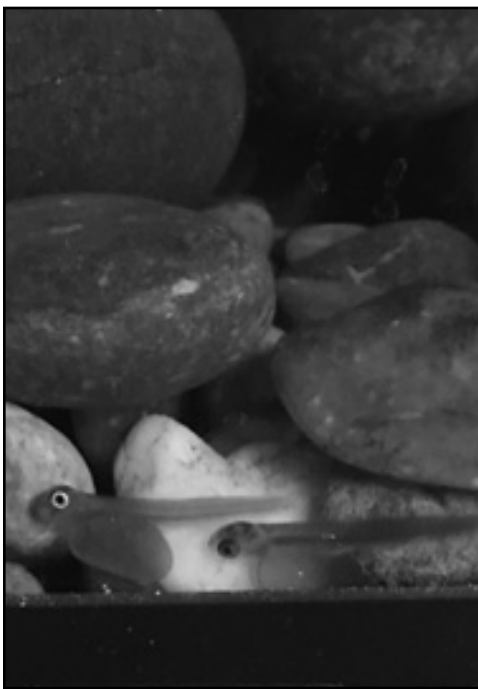
TYLER GOMES/ERMA B. REESE ELEMENTARY



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPH

Felix Munoz releases salmon at Mokelumne River Hatchery as part of an effort to preserve the river's natural habitats.

Lodi Lake geese.



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPH



ALEXIA VILLAGOMEZ/ERMA B. REESE ELEMENTARY

Above: The two ducks that you see are called mallards. Boy mallards have shiny green heads to impress the girls. The brighter the boy's head is the more likely he is to attract a mate. Left: Two salmon alevin swim in a tank in Mrs. Janine Jacinto's classroom at Heritage Elementary School.

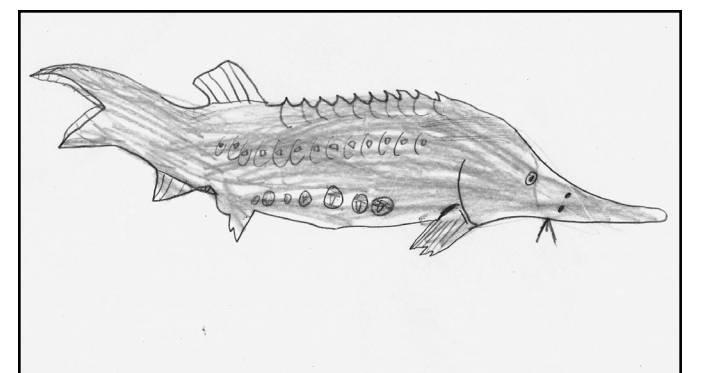
Mokelumne River Watershed Crossword

DIANA SUAREZ BRAVO/HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

ACROSS
 1 an area that flows water to different rivers and seas
 3 flows and carries water from the mountains to the sea
 5 the river that flows near Lodi

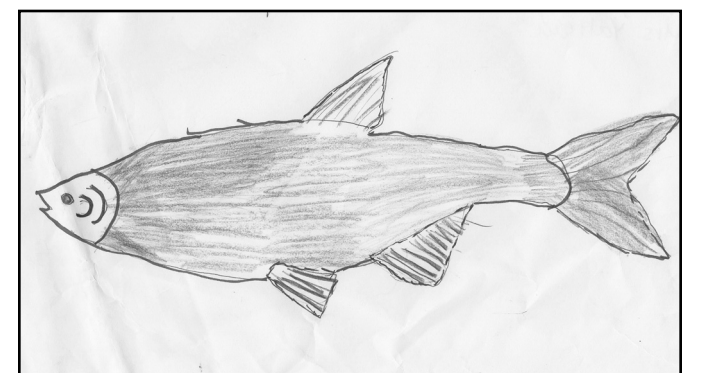
DOWN
 1 something we drink
 2 animal that eats macroinvertebrates and swims in the river
 4 this fish has a spawning nest called a redd

Under the water



GABE BRODEHL/HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

Lake sturgeon.



ALICIA SALAS TORRES/HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

Fish.