

# WILD ABOUT WATER

## An interview with biologist Michelle Workman

*Editor's note: Michelle Workman is a supervising biologist for the East Bay Municipal Utility District, which manages Camanche and Pardee reservoirs.*

**By Yuridia Cortes**  
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

**Q:** Where did you attend college?  
**A:** I attended college at California State University in Sacramento, which is also called Sac State.  
**Q:** What is your career or job title?  
**A:** Supervising Fisheries Biologist for EBMUD.  
**Q:** What were the most rewarding aspects of your job?  
**A:** The most rewarding aspect is when I see that the salmon are doing great, and I feel like I had a small part in it. The San Joaquin River was dry and didn't have salmon for 60 years. It took 10 years to bring the salmon back.  
**Q:** What were the least rewarding?

**A:** Sometimes supervising is hard because you have to act like a boss.  
**Q:** What is your favorite part about the Mokelumne River?  
**A:** My favorite part is all of the species that live in there. There are over 35 different species of fish.  
**Q:** Who are some of your personal heroes and why?  
**A:** My dad is my personal hero. He instilled the love of nature and the environment in me.  
**Q:** Did you want another career besides this one?  
**A:** In high school, I knew I wanted to become a biologist. I also thought of becoming a doctor. I worked in a hospital for a while as a phlebotomist.  
**Q:** Do you enjoy your job?  
**A:** I love my job!  
**Q:** What is your favorite salmon?

**A:** Chinook Salmon is my favorite because it has adapted so well. We mostly have Chinook Salmon here.  
**Q:** What is the first fish you studied?  
**A:** The desert pupfish. Something interesting about the pupfish is that the male courts the female by nuzzling her.  
**Q:** What is your favorite fish?  
**A:** Pacific Lamprey is my favorite. It looks like a tube of meat without bones.  
**Q:** What is your favorite mammal?  
**A:** My favorite mammal is the River Otter because they are playful.  
**Q:** What is something hard in your work?  
**A:** Working with lots of data is hard. Also, the physical part of the job is sometimes difficult because I am so small, and salmon can weigh 40 pounds or more.



COURTESY PHOTOGRAPH  
**Michelle Workman, East Bay Municipal Utility District supervising biologist, with interviewer Yuridia Cortes.**

### How much water does a fifth-grader use daily?

**By Malena Heredia-Tinney**  
LEROY NICHOLS ELEMENTARY

Today I will record how much water is used on a daily basis by seven fifth-grade students.  
In Ms. Bregman's class at Leroy Nichols, I will see what the students say about how much water they use a day.

Me: Hi, Student 1. How much time do you spend on average in shower?  
Student 1: U-uh, I'd say about 5 to 10 minutes.  
Me: OK! Do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth?  
Student 1: No, no, not usually.  
Me: OK, thank you for your time.

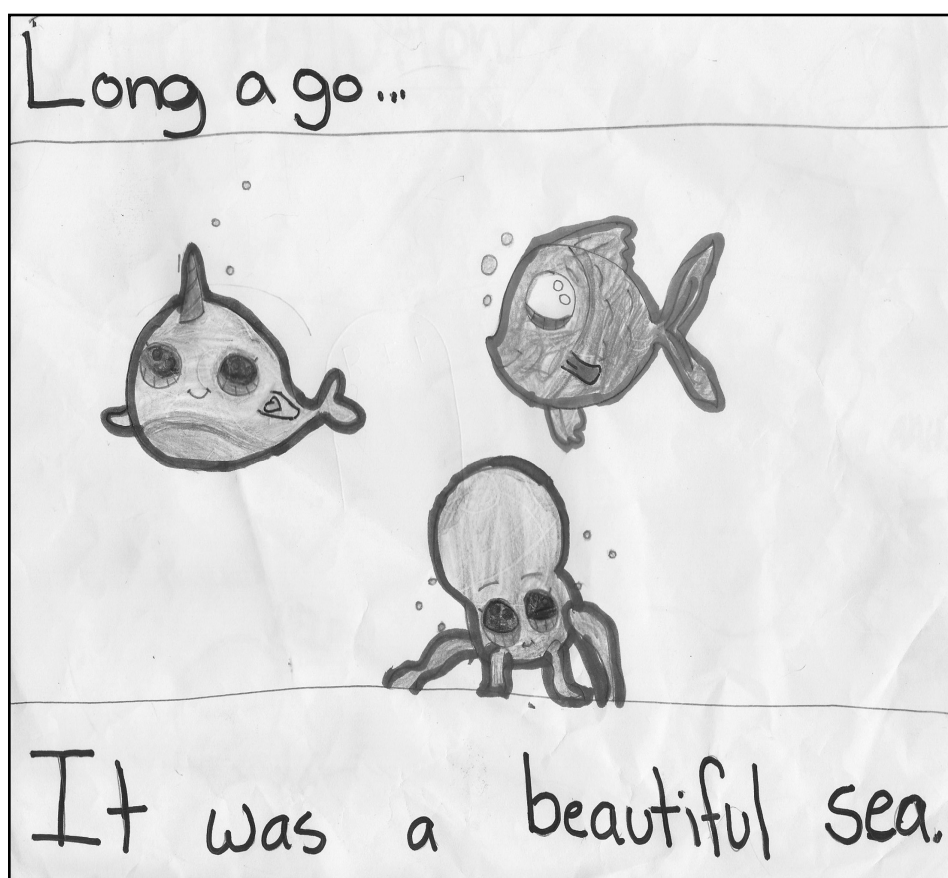
Me: Hi, Student 2! How much time do you spend on average in the shower?  
Student 2: About 20, or like, 15 minutes because I listen to music.  
Me: Do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth?  
Student 2: ... Yes.  
Me: OK, thank you for your time.

So far it's equal for leaving water on for 5 to 20 minutes in an average shower. Now for Student 3.  
Me: Hello, Student 3! How much time do you spend on average in the shower?  
Student 3: Thirty minutes on average.  
Me: OK, do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth?  
Student 3: No, my grandma doesn't let me.  
Me: OK, thank you for your time.

Me: Hey, Student 4! How long are you usually in the shower?  
Student 4: Thirty minutes.  
Me: Do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth?  
Student 4: No.  
Me: OK, thank you for your time.  
Me: Hi, Student 5! How much time do you spend on average in the shower?  
Student 5: Average and I would say 15 to 20 minutes. If I take long, it would be at least 35 minutes.  
Me: OK, do you leave the water running while brushing your teeth?  
Student 5: No, I don't.  
Me: OK, thank you for your time.

Me: Hi, Student 6! How much time do you spend in the shower?

### A pollution story



CAMRON HOYLE, ALIJAH CRONE, PRESTON CANTRELL AND LUIS AVALOS/  
LEROY NICHOLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### Marine Science Institute Study Trip Word Search



DIEGO JIMENEZ/HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

#### WORD BANK

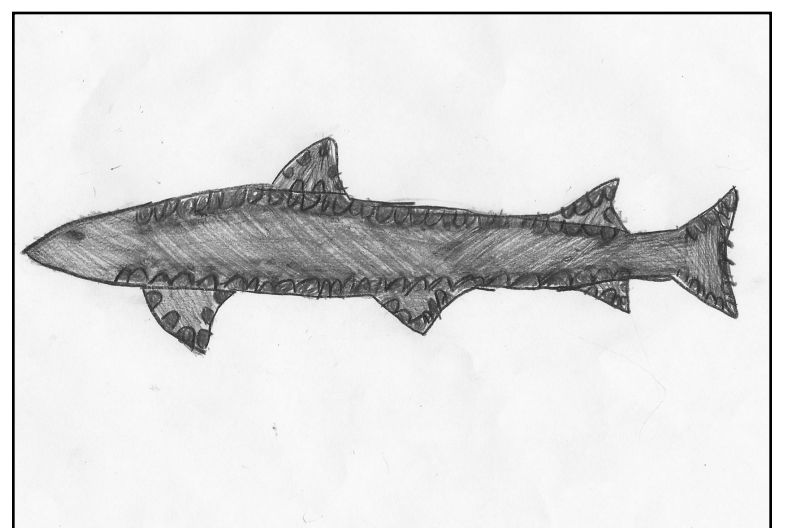
- Benthic
- Density
- Flatfish
- Hydrology
- Leopard
- Mud
- Plankton
- Salinity
- Shark
- Shrimp
- Temperature
- Water

### Water, water everywhere

**By Linos Flores**  
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

97% of water on Earth is salt water, meaning only 3% of the water is fresh.  
30% of freshwater is underground.  
1.7% of the world's water is frozen and therefore unusable.  
Approximately 400 billion gallons of water are used in the United States per day.  
Water weighs about 8 pounds a gallon.

Water can dissolve more substances than any other liquid including sulfuric acid.  
70% of the human brain is water.  
Water expands 9% when it freezes.  
A water efficient dishwasher uses as little as 4 gallons per cycle but hand washing dishes uses 20 gallons of water.  
It takes more than twice the amount of water to produce coffee than it does tea.



FARAH JAFFAR/HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

### What do you know about leopard sharks?

**By Sania Bibi**  
HERITAGE ELEMENTARY

Did you know that leopard sharks pose almost no danger to humans? There is only one record of a leopard shark injuring a human. In 1955 a leopard shark gave a diver a nosebleed. The diver did not have any other injuries.  
Did you know that leopard sharks keep their eggs inside of their bodies? Many sharks lay eggs, but not leopard sharks. Mother leopard sharks keep the eggs inside their bodies until they hatch. She then gives birth to live baby sharks, called pups.