

Orientation Requirements

Assessment	Friends of the Petaluma River & the Watershed Classroom	Petaluma Watershed: Overview	Petaluma Watershed: Ecology
<p>Administer the Watershed Classroom assessment to students prior to beginning the orientation, either the day of or sometimes in the week before.</p> <p>Assessments are available on our website under “assessments” on the home page.</p>	<p>Students should have a general understanding of the the Missions and Goals of both Friends of the Petaluma River and the Watershed Classroom. We want them to understand that FOPR is involved in many community efforts to connect people to our river and to care for our river. We want students to understand that they are a part of a watershed education movement in Petaluma.</p> <p>Specifics to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FOPR Mission: to celebrate the Petaluma Watershed through education and stewardship; because every great River deserves a true Friend. ● Examples of FOPR programming ● WC Mission: To Support the implementation of exceptionally engaging curriculum on the Petaluma River and Watershed. ● How many students involved in program in previous year ● Showcase will be held at the end of the year and we will need representatives 	<p>Students should understand what a watershed is and why the Petaluma Watershed is unique.</p> <p>Specifics to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definition of a watershed: An area of land where all water drains to the same place (or comparable definition) ● Petaluma Watershed is 146 Square Miles ● The Petaluma River connects to San Pablo Bay and is fed by many creeks from the hills and groundwater of Petaluma ● The watershed encompasses all of Petaluma and parts of Penngrove & Novato ● Show a picture of the Petaluma Watershed 	<p>Students should understand that the Petaluma Watershed is a unique ecosystem. There should be a particular emphasis on the Petaluma marshland.</p> <p>Specifics to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Petaluma River is actually a tidal slough that connects to the ocean ● Brown color of the river is due to tides and not pollution ● 11% of our watershed is tidal salt marsh ● The Petaluma Watershed is home to the largest ancient tidal marshlands in California ● Examples of species we share this watershed with (compelling examples are our endangered salt marsh harvest mouse or the threatened steelhead trout)

Petaluma Watershed: History	Stormwater Pollution	Sewer Science	Suggestions
<p>Students should understand that there is no City of Petaluma without the Petaluma Watershed. They should also understand that before the arrival of European settlers, Petaluma natives had lived here for nearly 2000 years.</p> <p>Specifics to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The original inhabitants of the Petaluma River were to Coast Miwok. They settled here between 2 and 6 B.C. ● Spanish explorers reached the site of modern day Petaluma by boat in 1776 ● Spanish soldiers began colonizing the area in 1805 ● Starting in 1852, steamboats began delivering trade goods on the Petaluma River ● Petaluma became a city in 1858 and thrived on river trade 	<p>Students should understand the significance of stormwater pollution in a watershed and have an idea of what they can do to prevent it.</p> <p>Specifics to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stormwater pollution is also called non-point source pollution ● Stormwater pollution happens when rainwater carries chemicals and debris to a body of water. ● Storm drains lead directly to the river ● Give students examples of some of the things which can get picked up by stormwater ● Discuss or suggest solutions 	<p>Students should understand where water goes when it disappears down the drain in Petaluma and should have an understanding of what is and is not ok to put down the drain.</p> <p>Specifics to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our water treatment plant is called Ellis Creek Water Recycling Facility ● Water from the plant drains to the Petaluma River after treatment ● The facility uses polishing wetlands as a step in their treatment process ● Only human waste and toilet paper should go into the toilet ● Food scraps, fats, oils, and dairy should all go in the trash, not down the kitchen sink ● Chemicals, motor oil, and medicine need to be disposed of in special ways 	<p>Descriptions of activities and copies of the materials we use in our orientation are available online. (<i>Home > Educator Resources > Orientation</i>) Please feel free to download them and use them in the classroom.</p> <p>Our Watershed Atlas is a great tool for showing students around the Petaluma watershed. (<i>Home > The Watershed > Watershed Atlas</i>)</p> <p>If you would like to save time the day of it is fine to administer the assessments on a different day or as homework, as long as it is before the orientation takes place. (<i>Home > Assessments</i>)</p>