



First Graders Become Stewards of Their Watershed

A project by Tami Jimenez

Watershed Classroom

Fieldwork Activities:

Students will take three seasonal walking field trips to Thompson Creek, our local creek and tributary to Petaluma River. We will gather and compare data on water and the impact of recent weather patterns. Students will locate Petaluma, CA, Thompson Creek, our STRAW field trip location and our watershed on a map. During these field trips, students will record video, take photos and document what they discover. Students will count, record and analyze data of birds, plants, water, litter, etc. Students will write, draw and label in their Science Notebook for each of the three visits to Thompson Creek. Students will use a meter stick to measure water depth and width of the creek. We will take the water temperature three times per year. We will investigate a one meter square plot. Students will draw, count and record data of living and non-living items.

Students will collect interesting organic material to bring back to the classroom for further investigation.

Students will create a digital learning project using one of the following apps: Pic Collage, Explain Everything, Thinglink or Book Creator to show what they have learned at Thompson Creek. Students will blog their learning. Crumple a Watershed: This is an activity that gives students an approachable perspective on watersheds by making a functional paper watershed model. We plan to provide an inquiry life science lesson on physical features, adaptations and habitat possibly using a crayfish, snail or ghost shrimps. Students will organize and label their collections of organic material to display.