



Invasive Species in the Watershed

A project of Keith Blascow

Watershed Classroom

Fieldwork Activities:

We will begin to learn about our local watershed by going on a field trip and recording what we find. The students will bring their journals with them to take notes, draw plants and animals, as well as record their location (landmarks, markers, etc.). A few students will have the role of taking pictures with their iPad and will attempt to document/identify some of the local flora and fauna using the iNaturalist, Project Noah, and Leaf Snap application for iPad. Back in the classroom, students will work to identify the native and non-native species and try to determine how some of them got there and what effect they have had on the area. They will also investigate if any of the species are endangered. When students return to the same area they will use a PVC pipe with string to form a quadrant to dig deeper in that area while others might collect water samples (depending on their focus). When they return to the classroom, they will share and discuss their findings and work on how they can help the area. The final field trip will be to remove invasive species (if allowed) and/or re-introduce native species (if allowed).

Both 5th grade classes have a possible field trip to the Sonoma County Water Agency where they get a chance to perform water quality tests and use microscopes to examine the variety of life that lives in the Russian River. Also, both 5th grade classes have a field trip on the Petaluma River in October. This field trip is done through the Maritime Museum on the Alma. The kids learn about sailing on the Petaluma, about Salmon, and about the history of the Petaluma River.