

STORM DRAIN DETECTIVES

What exactly do Lodi's Storm Drain Detectives do?

By Reese Ouimette
REESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

One Tuesday every month, some of the kids in my class walk to Lodi Lake to participate in the Storm Drain Detectives program. We get to test the water using professional equipment and record all of the information on a sheet of paper. Many other schools do the same. Then we compare our results with one another, and we come back again a month later.

One big part of the Storm Drain Detectives process is testing for dissolved oxygen, or D.O. This is the amount of oxygen dissolved in the water. D.O. is important because some aquatic animals and organisms need D.O. to survive. Too much or too little could be harmful, and potentially permanently damage any thriving ecosystems.

To test the amount of D.O., we use the CheMet kit and the D.O. meter. Both are effective and give us a lot of knowledge about what

the lake is currently like. Another one of the main parts of our Storm Drain Detectives testing is looking for E. coli. My classmate and I do this every time, because we find it fascinating.

After we have gone to the lake, we take home a water sample with us. The next day, we mix water with a solution and follow a very precise procedure. Then, we put it in an incubator to let it set.

After 24 hours, we look for any E. coli that has shown up. After 48 hours, we do the same. Normally, we will find two to three E. coli colonies (a colony is one dot of E. coli).

Storm Drain Detectives is so much more than you would expect. We are helping our community and the planet at the same time.

It is a great program, and I have learned so much about our watershed on these trips. For example, everyone lives in a watershed. We can't survive without water, after all!



LUCA MARTINEZ/REESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Storm Drain Detectives test site #8 at Lodi Lake.

More about the Storm Drain Detectives

By Cruz Martinez
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What is Storm Drain Detectives? Storm Drain Detectives is a program that students in Lodi Unified participate in. It started in 2000, and we monitor the water in Lodi Lake and the Mokelumne River. We monitor dissolved oxygen, nitrates,

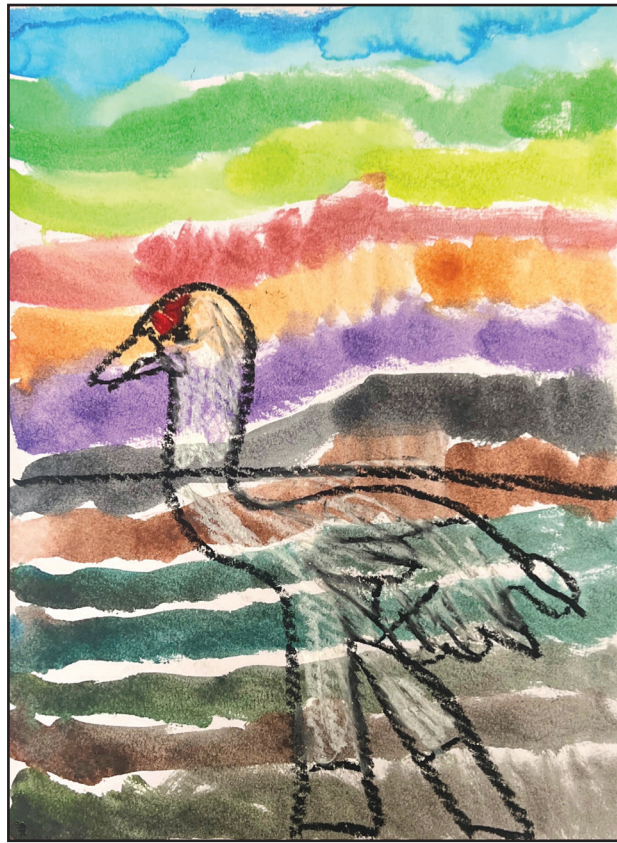
electrical conductivity, potential hydrogen (pH), and other things like temperature and trash.

I have been doing it since I was a baby, when my mom pushed me around in a stroller. I am also doing a science project in which I will study how temperature affects dissolved oxygen in the water.

Wild Art



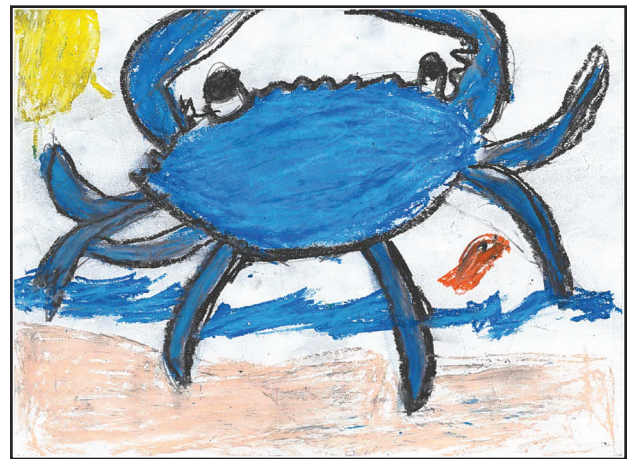
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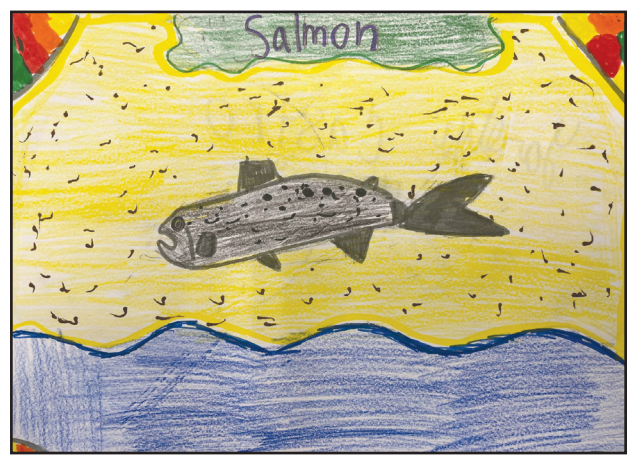
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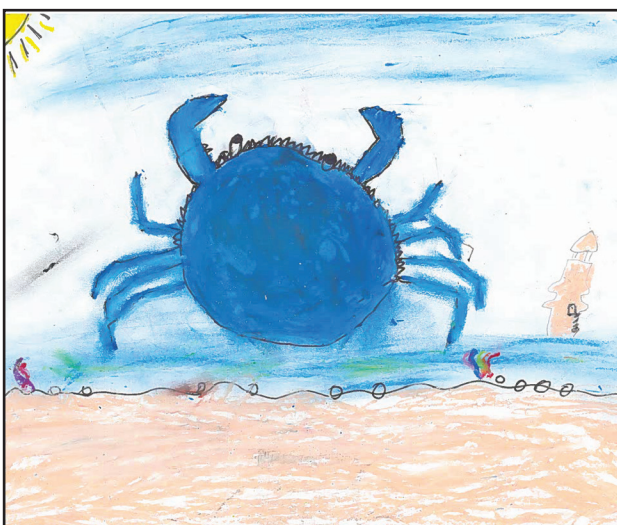
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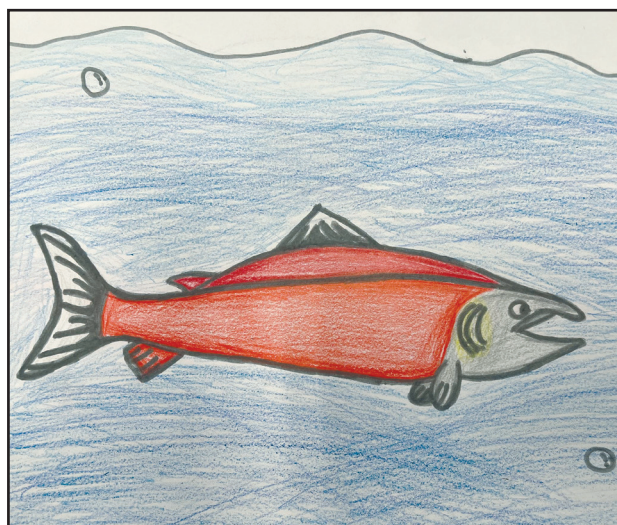
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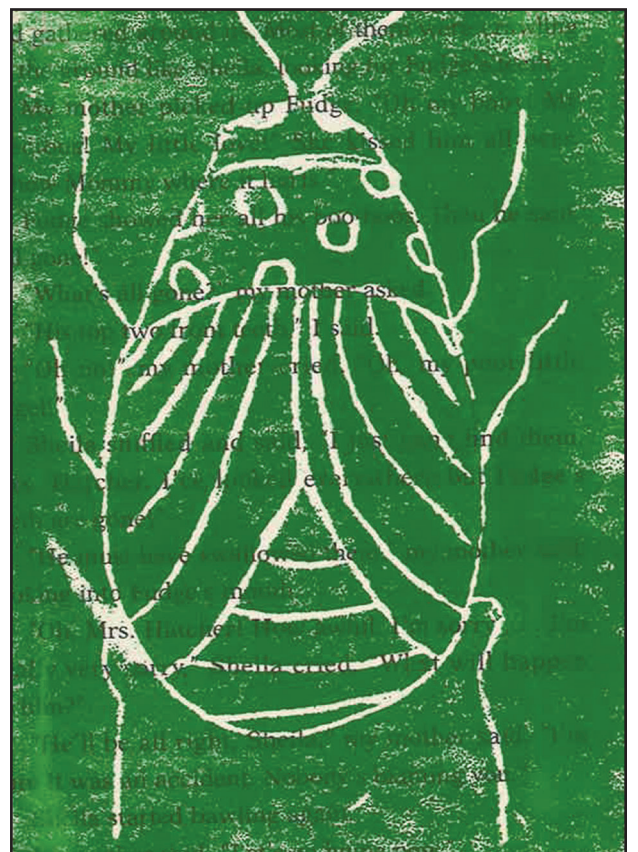
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