

SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM

Students see salmon in their natural habitat on Mokelumne field trip

Victoria Ramirez
BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

My math teacher, Ms. Jacinto, took us all on a field trip to the Mokelumne River for the first time. It was incredible. I learned a lot about salmon.

First, all my classmates and I were following the guide, and we each got a salmon fry.

I chose Kimberly to be my partner, and we named our salmon Strawberry, because when she was born she looked reddish peach, so that's why we named her that. Kimberly

and I went to the river and released the salmon. It was so sad, but I'm happy that she was healthy and living a good life.

Then, we all went by a little tent where we saw a dead salmon. It was weird! They told us about a salmon's body, like how it works. What was most interesting to me was that a salmon breathes out through their gills and not in! It's so confusing, yet amazing.

We also learned that when salmon have babies, they make a nest out of rocks and

flap their tails really fast to clean the nest. I also learned that the possibility of all the babies surviving is very low, most likely only five out of thousands of babies will survive!

It's so sad, but what's even more sad is how hard their life is.

Next, we played a game to see how hard a salmon's life is. We had to run really fast so the predators wouldn't catch us.

Then we had to go through obstacles, like jumping through wheels, and we had

to be careful because there were fishers. We were trying to grab fake food while the fishers were trying to catch us.

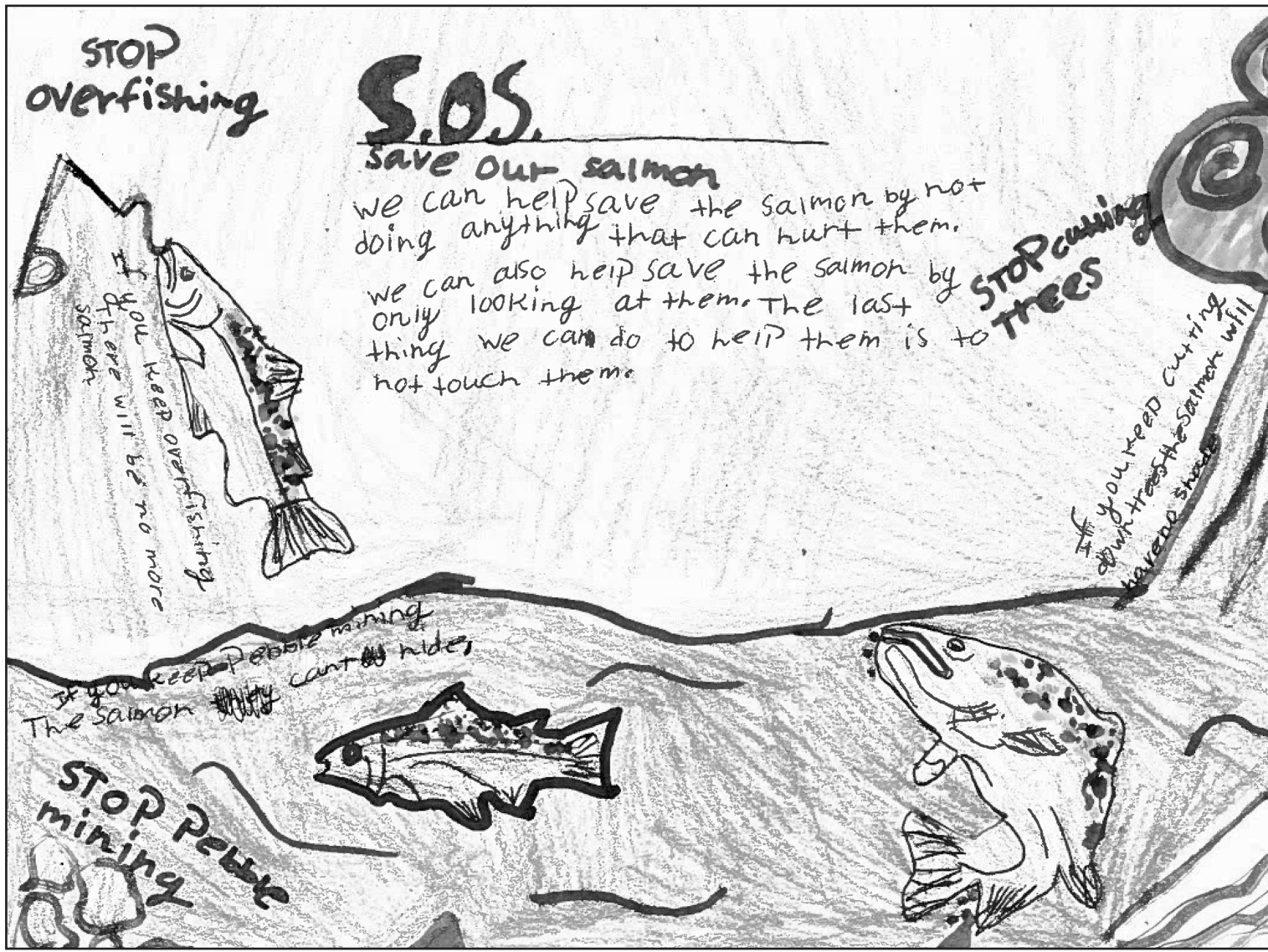
After the game, we got in line for each of us to grab a little cup of salmon food to feed a bunch of the salmon. It was really fun feeding the salmon. I made sure to give a little bit to each part of the group.

Also, we went inside a building and sat down. A guide gave us little cards with pictures of plants on them and things about the plant. Then, she gave us each a paper to fill out.

We had to put a check mark if we had seen the plant card.

There were two sides: native, which means it's supposed to grow there, and non-native, which means somebody planted that plant there and wasn't supposed to.

To sum it up, this field trip is one I will never forget. It was really fun and it was all possible because of my math teacher, Ms. Jacinto! So I'd like to thank her. I learned a lot about salmon, things I never knew before, so I'm glad I went.



EMMA NELSON/REESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

My experience visiting the Mokelumne River with my classmates

Stephany Ochoa
BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Have you ever been to the Mokelumne River with your classmates? I have, and let me tell you my experience!

I went to the Mokelumne River with my whole class. Once we got there, there was a tour guide and another teacher from my school came with us. She was Ms. Jacinto, the one who planned the field trip.

You might be wondering, "Why would we go to the Mokelumne River?" Well, a while back, she got these salmon eggs and she had them until they were out of their eggs, and since they can swim around freely it's time to put them back in the river!

So, once we walked close enough to the river, a worker explained a bit about the salmon and stuff like that. Meanwhile, some other workers were each putting salmon in a tiny container, and one of the workers told us to get partners.

I partnered with my friend, Salma, and a worker gave us a salmon that was in a container for us to hold. We decided to name the salmon Olive since we really didn't know the gender of the salmon.

There were many other areas we explored there at the Mokelumne River, but there was this one station where we got fish food and got to feed a bunch of fish.

There was another station where a tour guide took me and some of my classmates on a walk and we learned about the plants and animals that lived there.

It was such a great experience to go on with my classmates.

Did you know salmon could have scoliosis?

Sophia Ortiz
BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Do you know what scoliosis is? If you don't, scoliosis is a back disorder that will make your spine rotate.

Recently I went on a trip to the Mokelumne River to drop off some salmon that we were taking care of. One of the fish

we were taking care of had scoliosis. Let me tell you more about this back disorder called scoliosis.

We were very nervous when we saw the salmon with scoliosis. It was new to all of us, but thankfully as long as the conditions aren't too bad they can still live.

What causes scoliosis in a fish are usually vitamins C and D and some amino acid deficiency.

I also have a family member with scoliosis, but of course, she is healthy and has a good life with two of her kids and her husband. I hope this article helps you understand scoliosis more.

Best parts of the Mokelumne River field trip

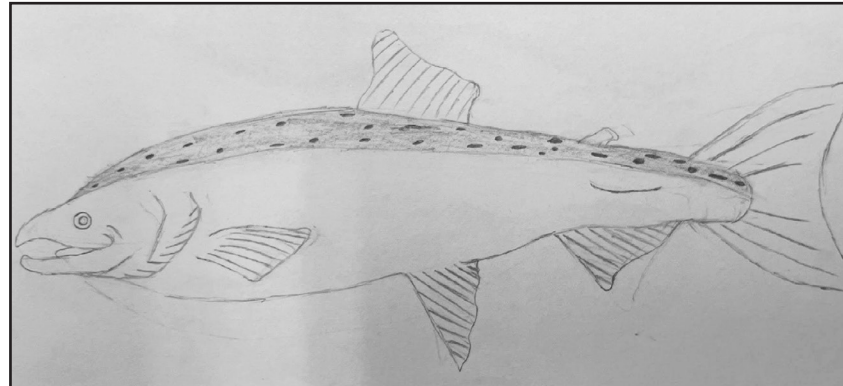
Liam Bravo-Ramirez
BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

My favorite thing about my field trip to the Mokelumne River is that we were able to see lots of fish and name ours.

Ms. Jacinto gave each of us a salmon fry to share. My friend, Estevan, and I named ours "Andrew Tate" (not harm if you do not like him). And we let it go!

It was sad, but the fish swam really fast! It was like Sonic!

We were able to touch a rotten boy fish, he was a lousy fish. It was gooey, and



VALERIE ALVAREZ DEL VILLAR/REESE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

the reason they were gooey was that they use that goo to make sure there are no parasites that can touch them. (You learn something new every day!)

We also played a

game that was the life cycle of a salmon. It was really hard to hit someone, and most of the time I couldn't move!

There were also a lot of fish to feed in the water. They were

jumping for their food that we were dropping in, I almost was bit a couple of times.

Lastly, we were able to team about different trees, plants, and other species.

A day of activities: What we learned at the Mokelumne

Jermiah Kelley
BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

At the Mokelumne River, my class and I did a lot of activities. Some of them were more interesting than the others. I'm going to tell you all about them.

First, when we got off the bus, we met our guide for the day, then we got our own salmon fry from Ms. Jacinto so we could release them. I named mine "Jermiah the Third."

Then we went to go play a game, it was about the life cycle of a salmon. First you had to do five jump ropes, then you had to make it through two people trying to tag you, then you made it to the ocean where they had these little blocks that represented years of life.

You had to collect four blocks, or years, and at the same time there are fishermen guarding the years. If they touch you with little foam

poles, you're out!

But if you make it past them, you have to jump over a rug, it was like jumping over a river or stream, then after that you're safe.

After the game, we went to go feed fish in the water. There were a bunch of trout over by me, but everybody else went too far where there were barely any fish.

These are my favorite parts of the Mokelumne River field trip.

What we saw on our Mokelumne nature walk

Naomi Alvarado
BECKMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

When I went to the Mokelumne River, it was so fun! I had a really nice time there.

My favorite thing was when we went

on a nature walk and learned new things about plants, like native and invasive species.

I think one of the most fun parts of the Mokelumne River trip was the nature walk.

It was very relaxing because it was quiet, and I don't know about you but walking in the quiet is so relaxing.

On the nature walk we were hoping to see other animals, not just salmon. We were hop-

ing to see animals like rabbits, insects, and many more.

What we did see was evidence of beavers and birds, and we saw bees. That's what I liked about the nature walk.

Poem

Supreet Pandher
ELKHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

One egg died
Which made some kids cry
One salmon had a disease
While the others were at ease
All kids loved them
It was hard to say goodbye to their friends

My Salmon, Toast

Emma Okoreeh
ELKHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Oh Toast, my salmon,
As I love to see you grow
and enter the big river
I observed you during observations, you were quite the kicker
When I released you, a shiver of sadness pushed through me
I decided to let it go remember I'm going to miss you, be free
I hope you grow to be a big salmon someday
So when you grow up to be that big, I wish you good luck since you're away

Goodbye

Aly Welch
ELKHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The salmon are here
But soon the salmon will leave
They will go downstream
The ocean will soon greet them
I wish there was no goodbye

Poem

Preston Phan
ELKHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Salmon
So colorful
They are so beautiful
And they come in many sizes
Salmon

Ode to my salmon, Delta

Jennica Lam
ELKHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Oh Salmon, Oh Salmon.
I have named you Delta because it is something that matters.
I hope you never forget me as you climb up your ladders.
You may think about me in your sleep.
I hope my memories are yours to keep.
I will always miss your beautiful tail.
I know you will always have a good temper, even when you fail.
I remember you as an egg
I remember you being fed.
Oh Salmon, Oh Salmon
You are mine.
Just don't forget you are as shiny as a dime.

Poem

Nathan Tagupa Acain
ELKHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Salmon.
Anadromous,
with various species,
wading through the clear blue waters,
freely.

Poem

Alaina Nguyen
ELKHORN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

A beautiful sight
A salmon has hatched.
He emerges from the egg.
A sight to behold.

Poem
Ethan Nguyen
Elkhorn Elementary School

Salmon
Salmon,
You risk so much
In hope, that one day, you
Create the next generation again

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