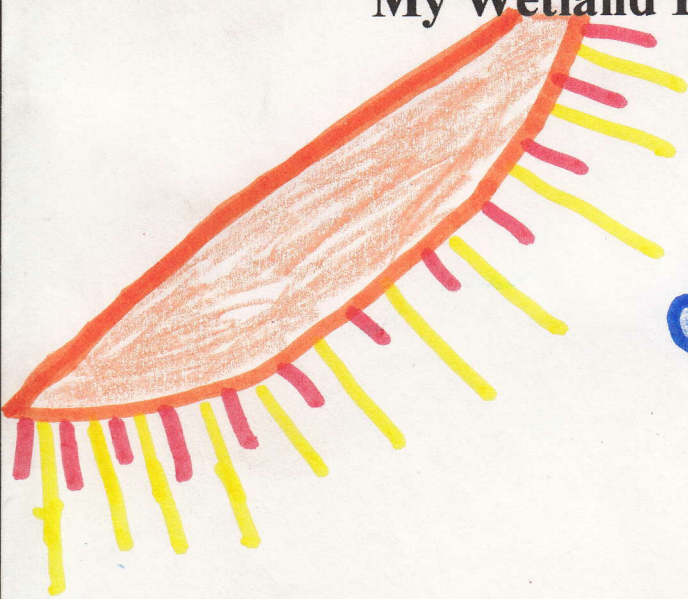


My Wetland Book on Gopher Snake



Written by Danny

Hello fellow students. My name is Danny and I'm a 5th grade student at an elementary school in Watsonville. I'm in a special class where we are learning about *wetlands* and I'd like to share with you about what *wetlands* are, how *important* they are, and an *animal* of particular interest to me, Gopher snake.

About me...

But before I start my book, I'd like to share with you about some of my favorite things.

I like to do tricks on my
bike and I like to play with my
friends. I also like to do tricks on my
skateboard.



Okay, now I'm ready to write about what *wetlands* are, their *importance*, and facts about one of my favorite *animals*, the Gopher Snake.

First, *wetlands* are essentially a very unique ecosystem in that the land is always, or at least most of time, wet- hence the name, *wetlands*. This ecosystem has special characteristics such as:

- It's wet and mud is squishy
- Fresh, shallow water
- Plants grow in water: duckweed, lily pads, & cattails



Second, 90% of the wetlands have been destroyed due to development and unsustainable farming practices. That means only 10% remain today. We must conserve and protect this ecosystem.



pie chart ♡

90%
percentage

$\frac{90}{100}$
fraction

0.90
decimal

Third, we are very fortunate to literally have **wetlands** as part of our community. They serve many **important** purposes, such as:-

- filter water clean
- absorb water (control floods)
- provide a habitat for plants and animals



Fourth, there is a particular *animal* of interest to me, namely the Gopher snake. I chose this *animal* because it eats mice and it's not poisonous.

mouse



In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss what I researched about my animal of interest, the gopher snake. I will cover the following: classification, common name, scientific name, physical characteristics, behavior, if the animal camouflages, adaptations, range, migratory, population, status, reproduction, habitat, prey, predators, where animal fits in food web, and whether the Ohlone Indians used the animal for food, clothing, or other purposes. *I hope you enjoy the book!*

Classification

The Gopher snake is a vertebrate because it has a backbone. It is classified as a reptile because it is cold blooded, has scales, and lays eggs.

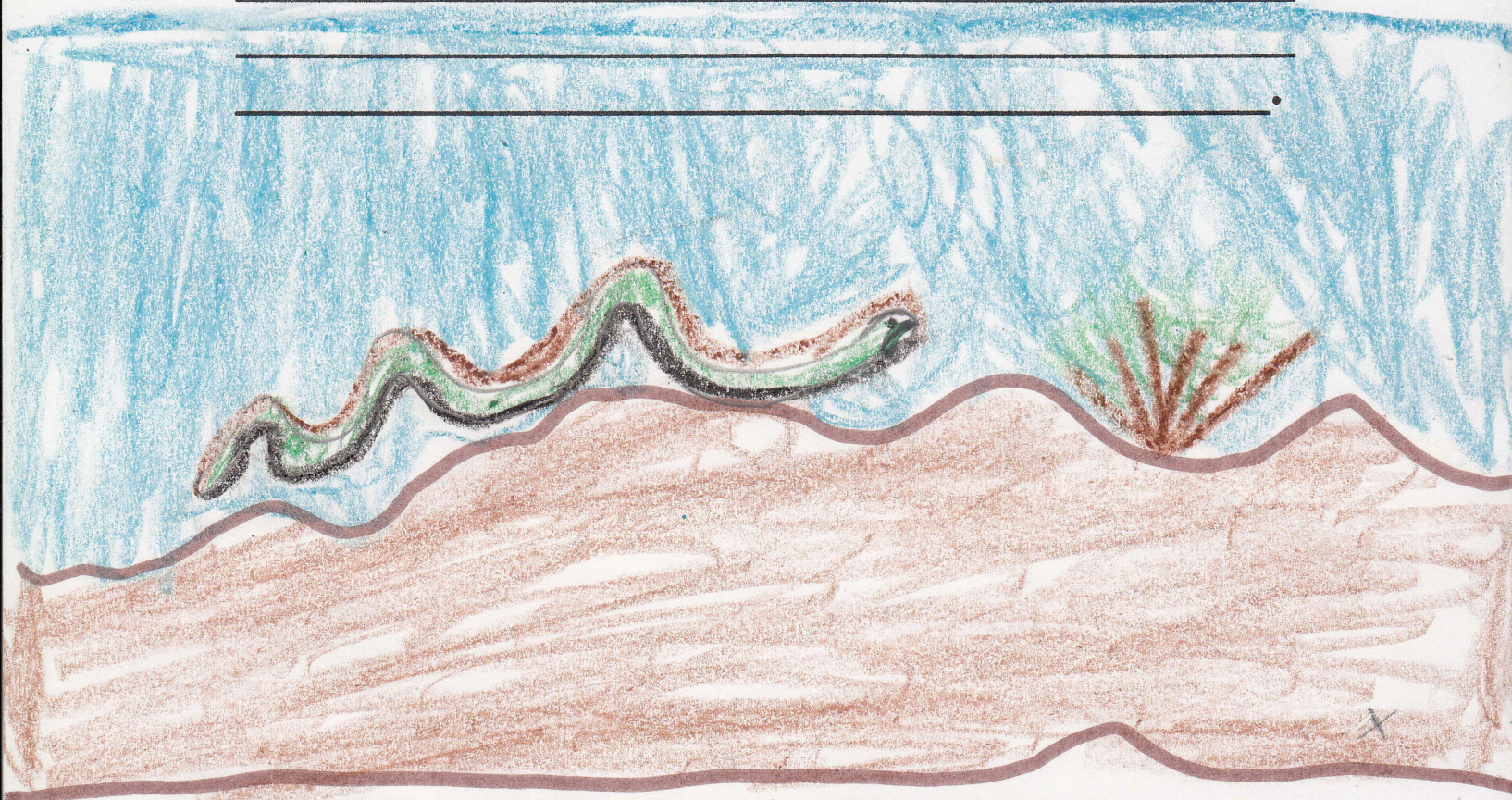
Names

The Gopher snake has two names. The common name is Gopher snake, and the scientific name is Pituophis melanoleucus

In science, the *scientific name* is the genus and species of the animal or plant.

Physical characteristics... my animal looks like...

My animal is brown and black
and has a little bit of green
on its sides



Camouflage...does my animal blend into its environment?

After looking at my animal and reading more about it, I realize that it does camouflage
in its environment

Adaptations

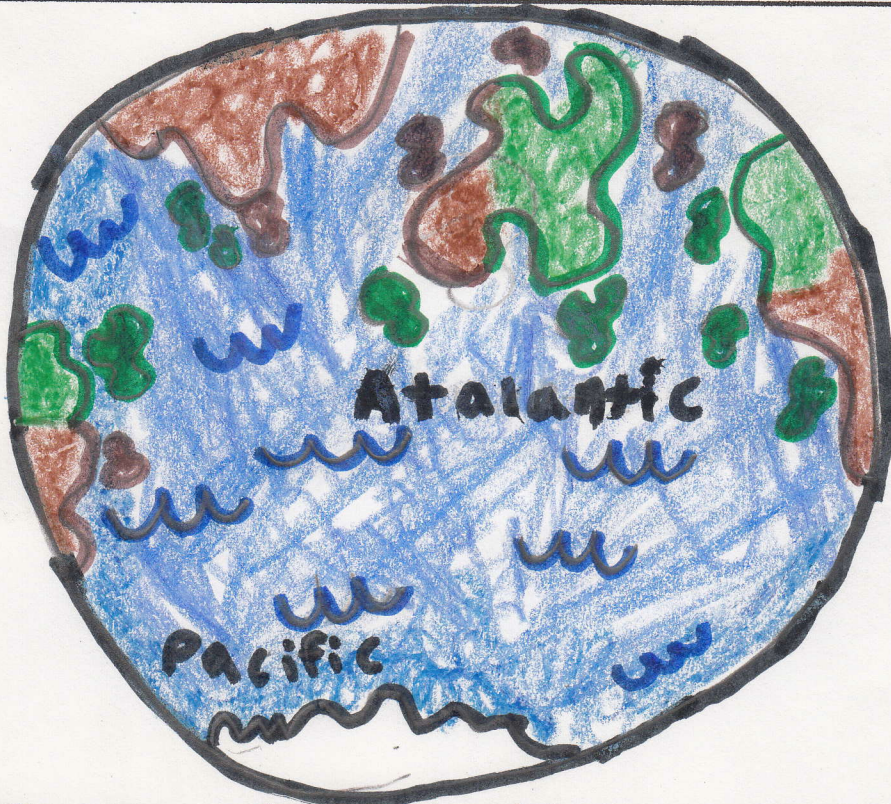
My animal is unique because it can
squeeze their prey to death
by wrapping around it.

Animal behavior

The way I would describe the behavior of my animal is they are excellent
climbers and swimmers.
They are diurnal (active during
the day).

Range

The Gopher Snake is found across
the United States.



Migratory...does it travel from one location to another during seasons?

The gopher snake does not migrate. For example, _____

Population

The population of my animal is stable.

Status

The status of the gopher snake tells me whether it is endangered, threatened, or stable.

What I found out is that the gopher snake is stable.

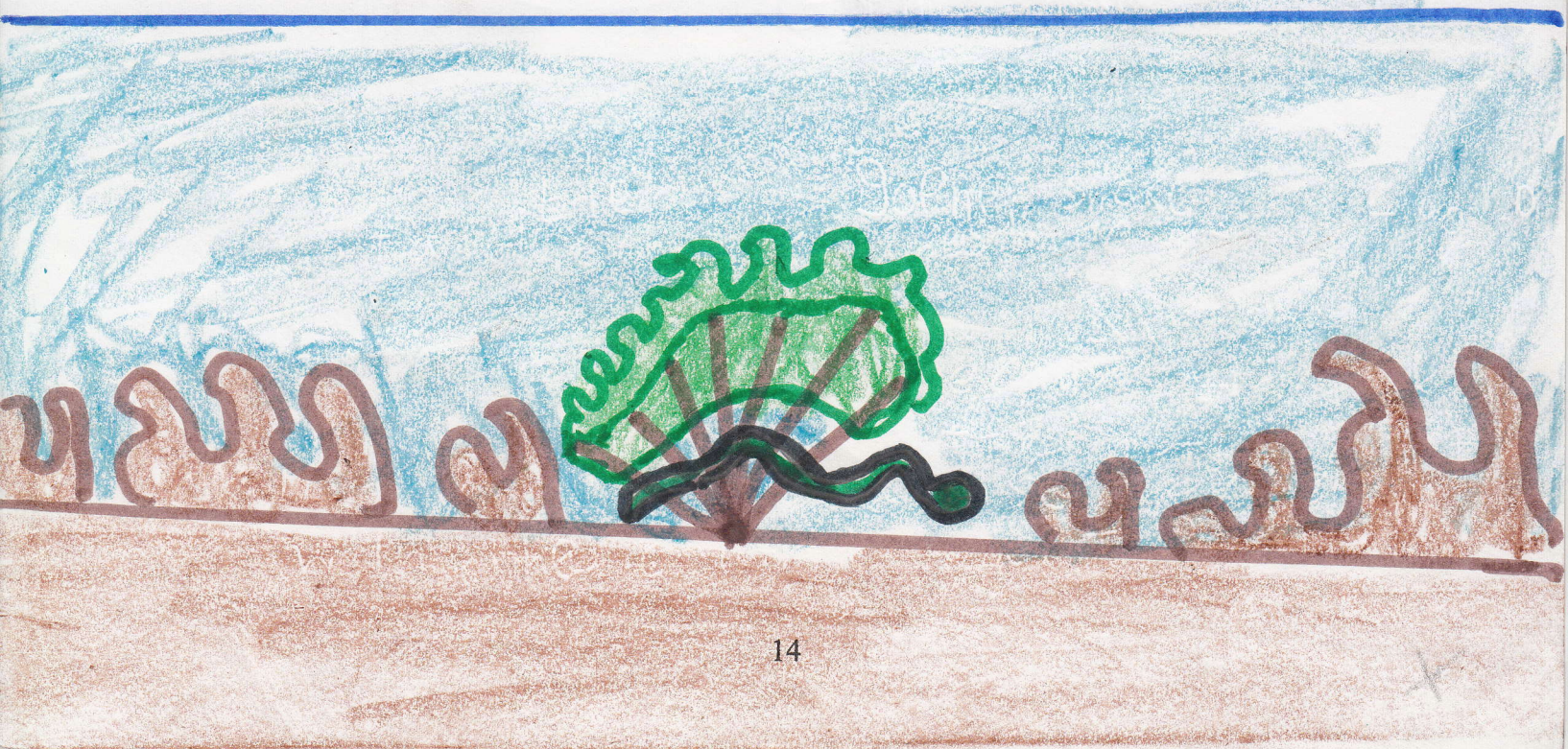
I find this interesting because gopher snakes are not poisonous but people often kill them because they look like rattlesnakes. It is not smart to kill any snakes because they help control rodent populations.

Reproduction

The reproduction of the Gopher snake is that they mate during the Spring. The female lays 2-8 eggs from June to Aug. The eggs hatch in 2.5 months.

Habitat...home

The Gopher snakes habitat is bushes, deserts, prairies, woodlands, brush, coniferous forest, and cultivated land.



Prey and predator...(to eat and to be eaten)

The prey my animal eats are: mice, gophers,
ground squirrels, birds, and lizards.

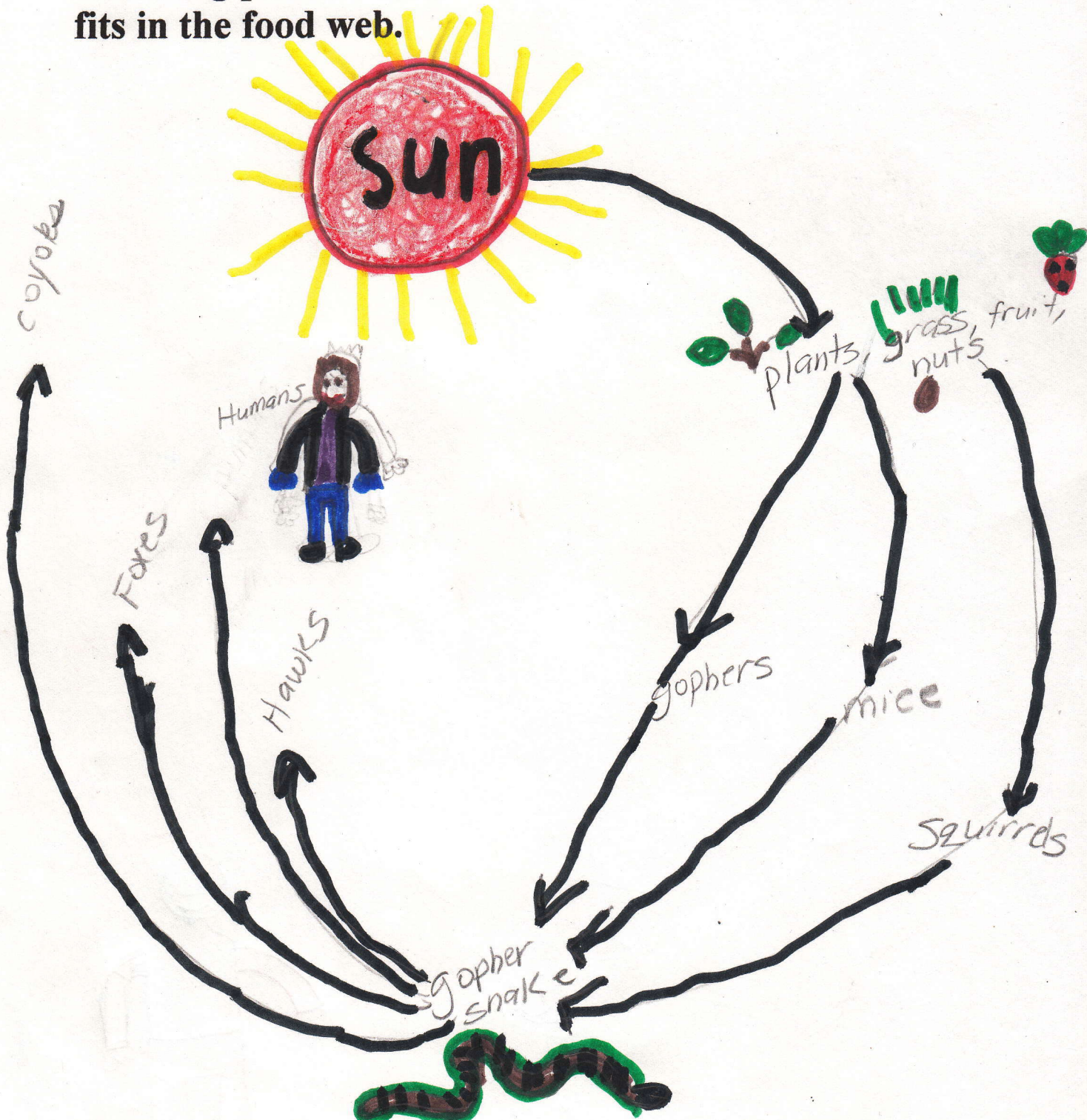
My animal eats other things such as:
eggs.

The predators that eat me are: hawks, foxes,
coyotes, and humans.



Food web

My animal is a Gopher snake. The following picture demonstrates where my animal fits in the food web.



Ohlone Indians

I'm curious to see if the Ohlone Indians used the Gopher Snake in anyway, for example, for food, clothing, or for other purposes. What I discovered was that the Ohlone Indians didn't use my animal for anything



References

(books, articles, web-sites, etc.)

www.naturemappingfoundation.org

www.saczoo.org

WEB
SITES

Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the Gopher snake. Please feel free to *comment* about my book and also, test your knowledge by answering the following *questions* below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Comments for me:

Questions for you: (See if you can answer these...)

1. What does the Gopher snake eat?
2. What eats the Gopher snake?
3. Is the Gopher snake a Vertebrate?