

My Wetland Book on California Ground Squirrel



Written by Elsy B.

Hello fellow students. My name is Elsy
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, CA Ground Squirrel.



About me...

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

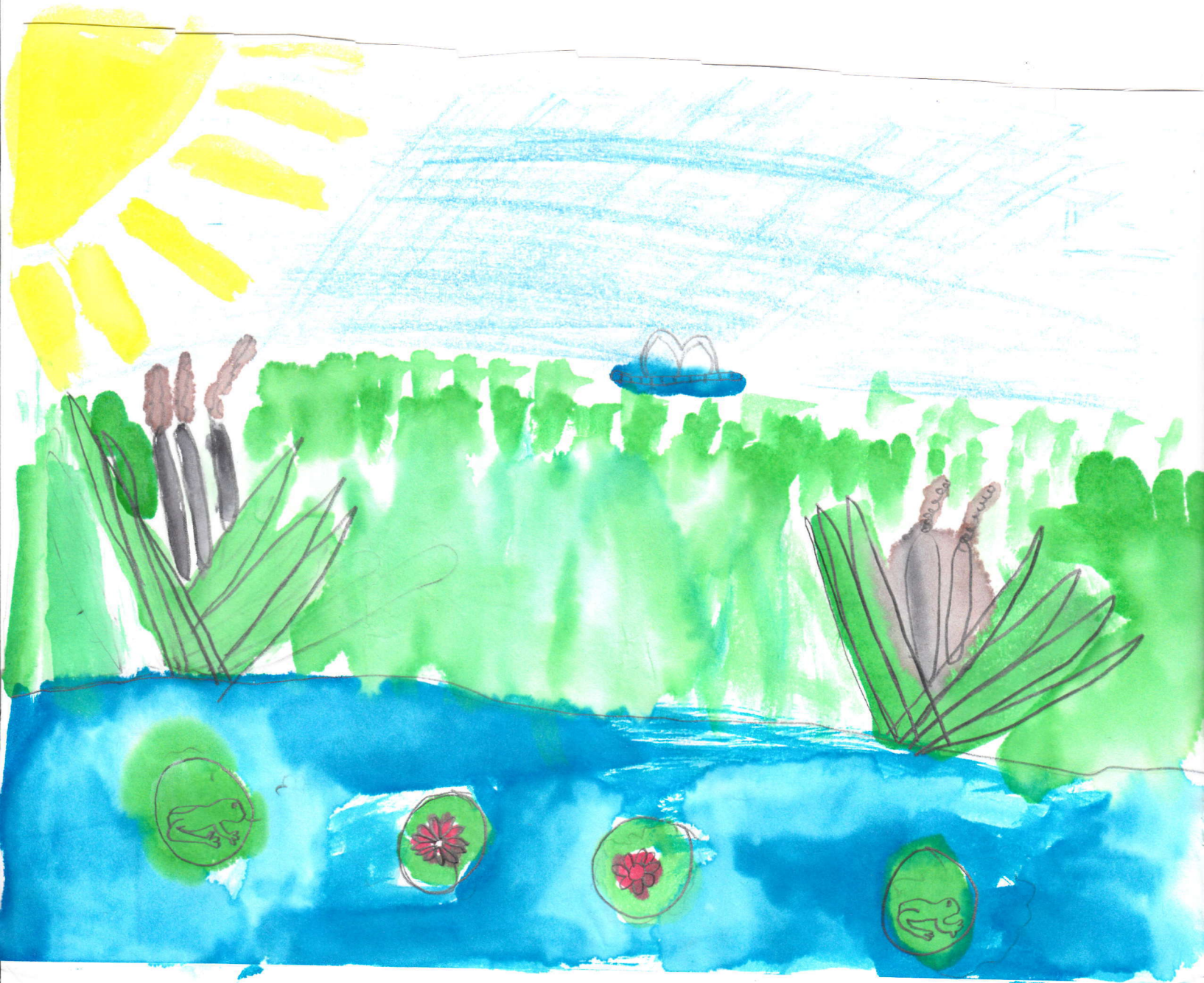
I love music and dancing. My favorite colors are red, pink, blue, purple, green, yellow, and orange. My favorite food is tamales. I love Christmas.



Okay, now I'm ready to write about what *wetlands* are, their *importance*, and facts about one of my favorite *animals*, CA Ground Squirrel

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 it's land is muddy & squishy
- Fresh water, shallow water
- Plants that grow in water (lily pads, duck weed, and 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 important ecosystem.



pie chart

90%

percentage

$\frac{90}{100}$

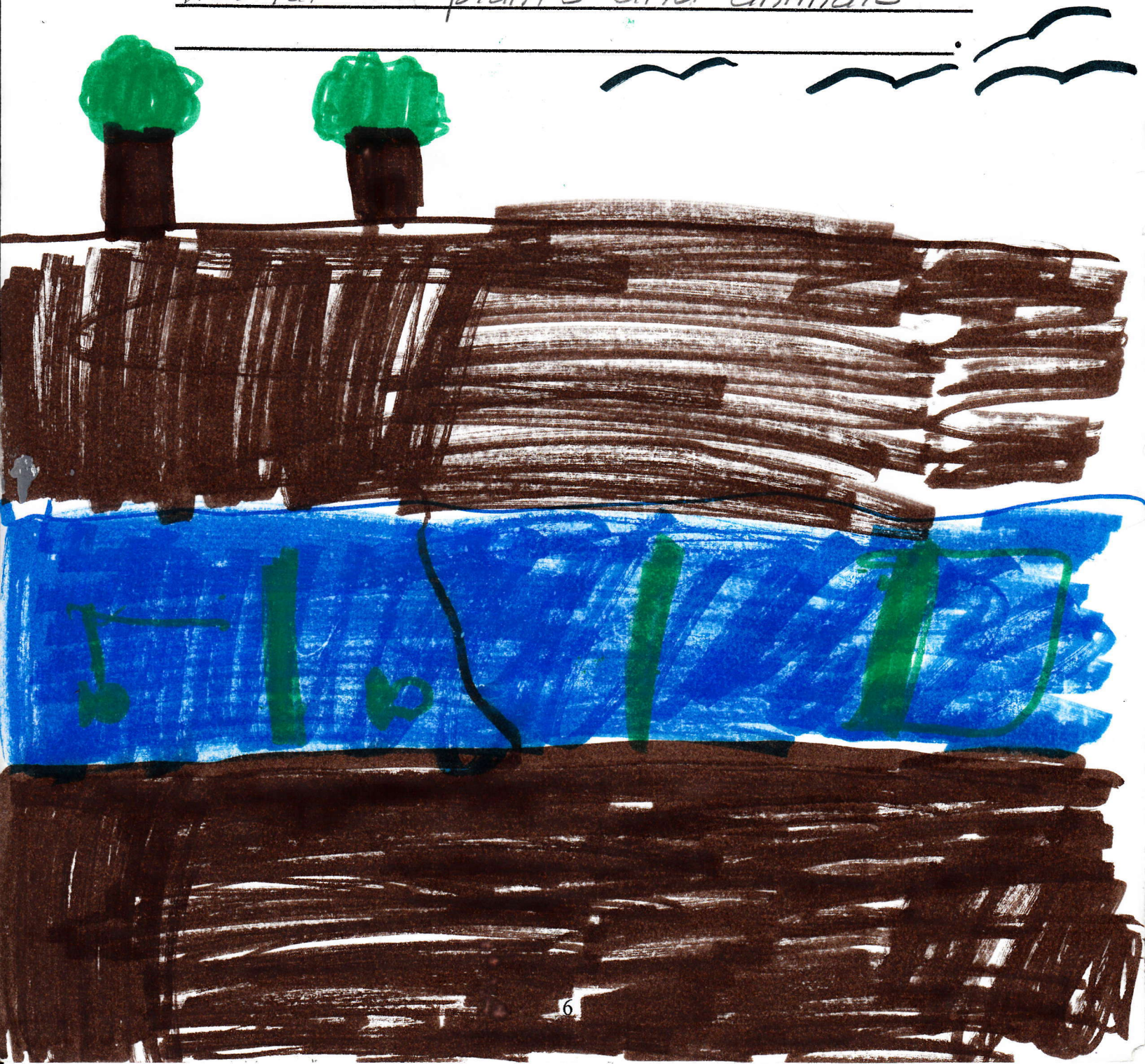
fraction

0.90

decimal

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

- They filter water clean
- Prevent floods
- Habitat for plants and animals



Fourth, there is a particular *animal* of interest to me, namely the CA Ground Squirrel. I chose this *animal* because it is cufe and it looked interesting to learn about.



In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss what I researched about my animal of interest, the CA Ground Squirrel. 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 Ca. ground squirrel is a vertebrate because it has a backbone. It is classified as a rodent because it has short legs and it lives under ground.

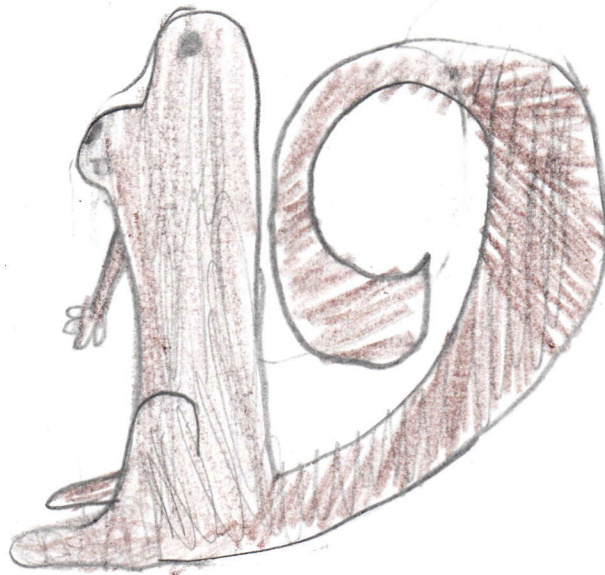
Names

The Ca. ground squirrel has two names. The common name is California ground squirrel, and the scientific name is spermophilus beecheyi.

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

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

My animal weighs 280-738 g.
It's length is 330-508 mm.
It's fur is a mixture of brown
and gray.

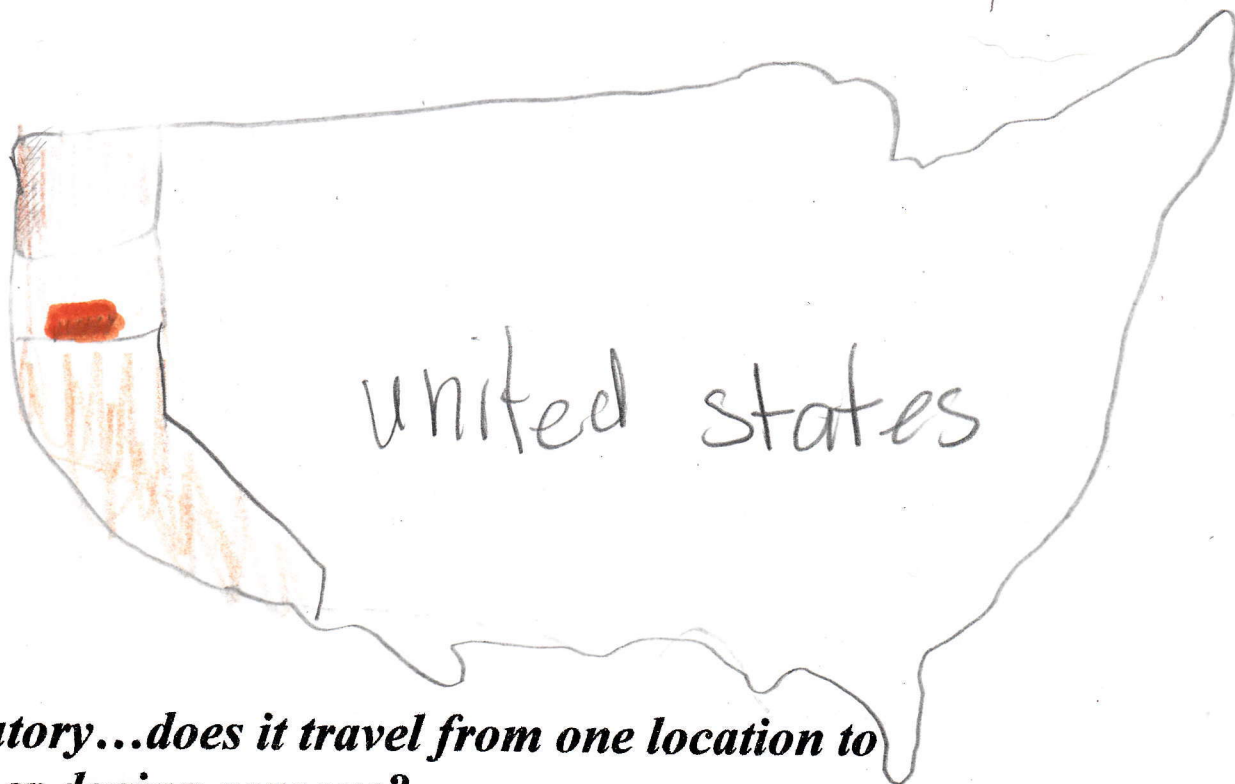


Camouflage...does my animal blend into its environment?

After looking at my animal and reading more about it, I realize that it does camouflage
on the ground and tree trunks.

Range

The Ca. ground squirrel **is found** in the
southern central Oregon, western
washington and most parts of
california.



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

The Ca. ground squirrel **does not** **migrate. For**
example, _____

Status

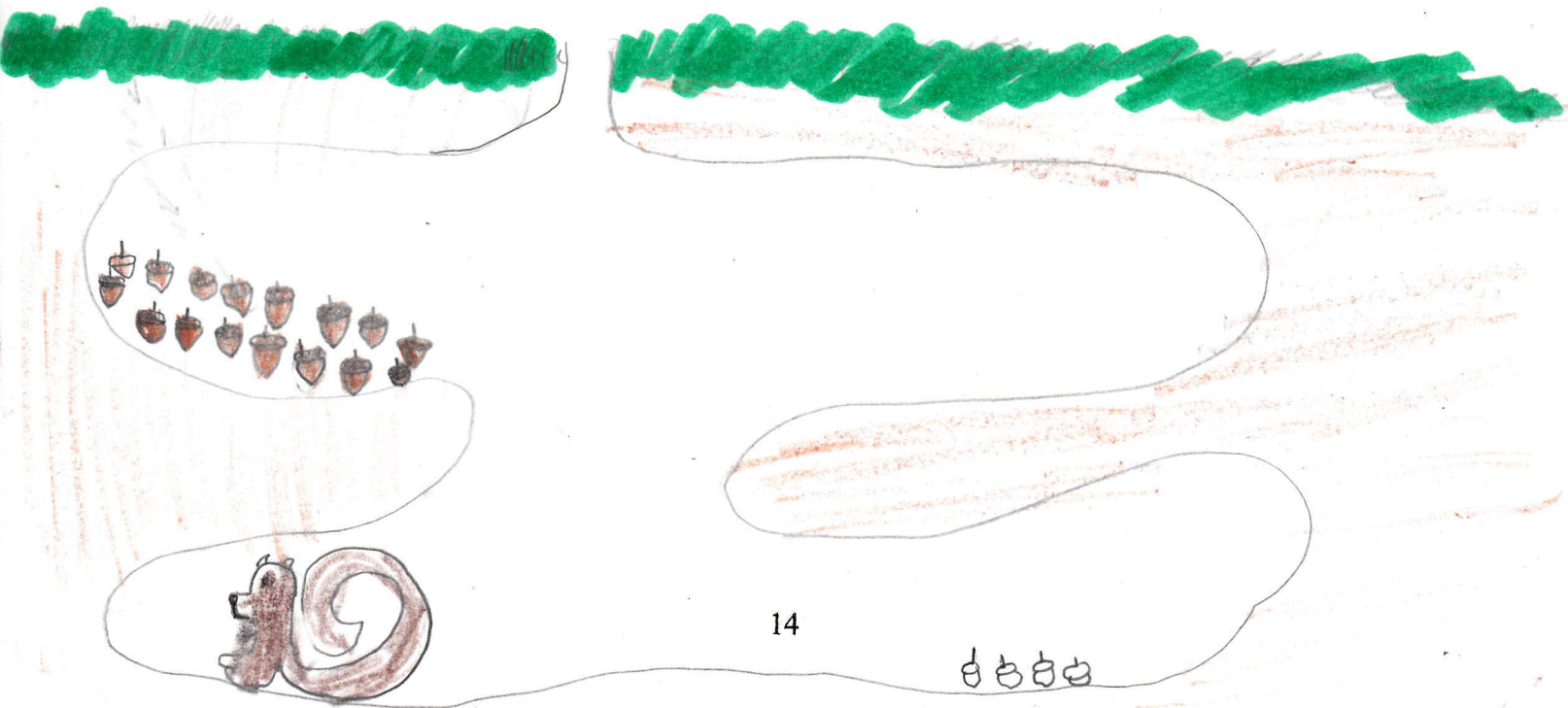
The status of the ^{CA} ground squirrel tells me whether it is endangered, threatened, or stable. What I found out is that the squirrel is endangered. I find this interesting because I think it is a special animal, but after researching about it, many people consider it to be a pest.

Reproduction

The reproduction of the CA Ground Squirrel is
that they mate in the early
Spring and have about 8
offspring (babies)

Habitat...home

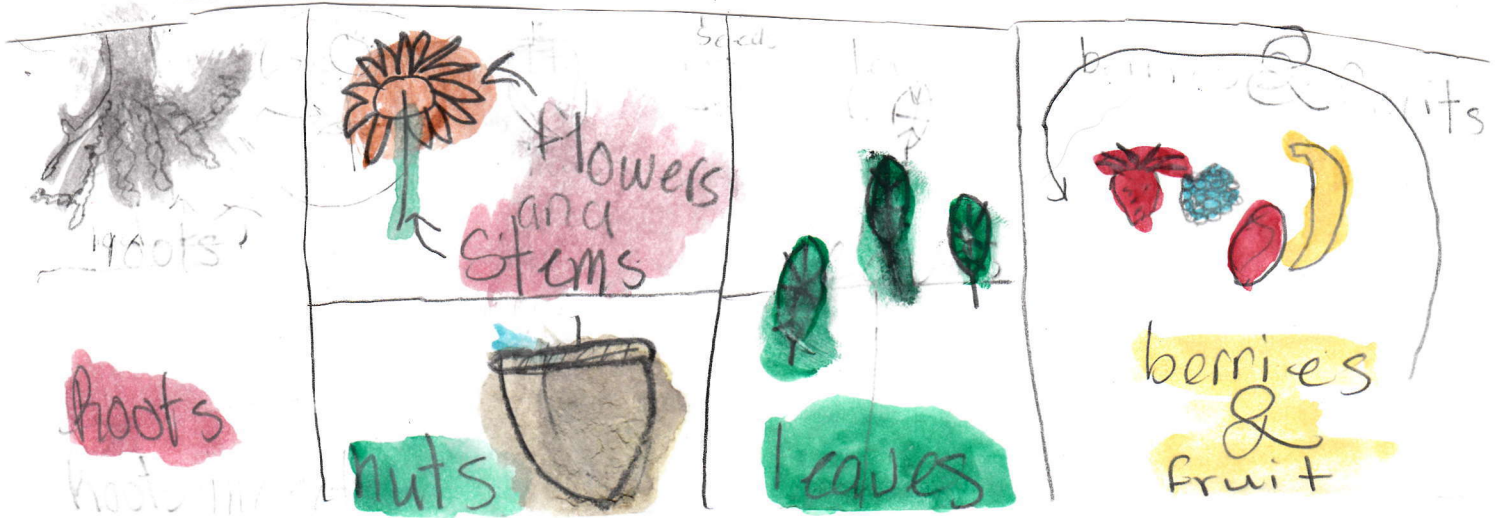
The CA Ground Squirrel habitat is a deep,
long, and safe burrow



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

The prey my animal eats are: insect
and deer mice

My animal eats other things such as:
Roots, stems, nuts, seeds, leaves,
flowers, and fruit (berries)

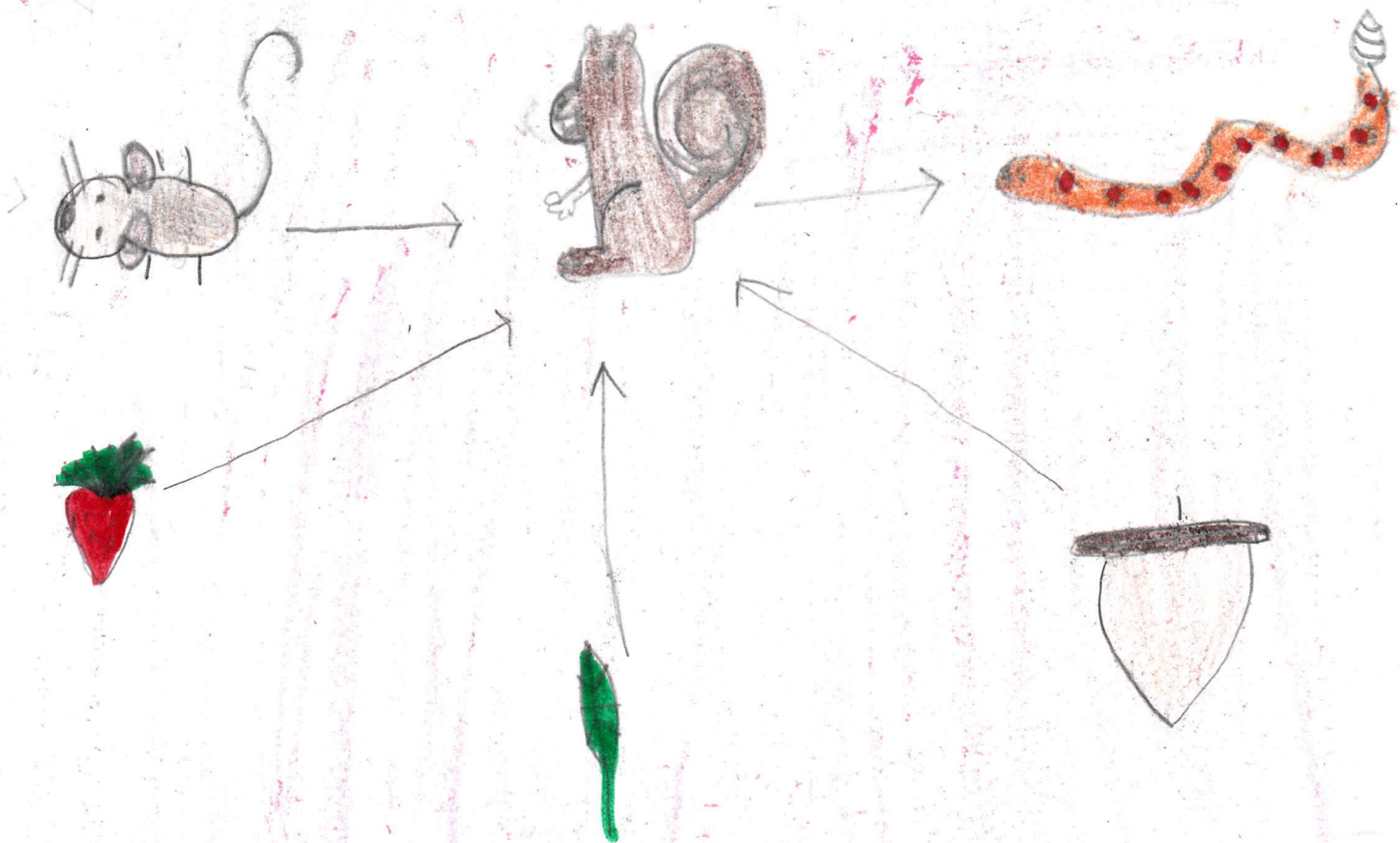


The predators that eat me are: Coyotes,
american badgers, weasels, rattlesnakes,
red-tailed-hawk, golden eagles, domestic
dogs and cats, bob cats, mountain lions.



Food web

My animal is an Omnivore. 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 CA Ground Squirrel in anyway, for example, for food, clothing, or for other purposes. What I discovered is they used the meat to eat, bones for tools, and fur for clothing



References

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

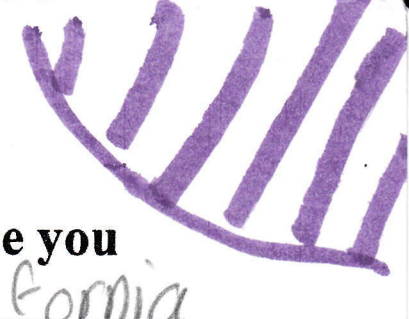

Nature works

Animal diversity

Wikipedia

Nature mapping

Kids zone



Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the California ground squirrel. 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. Where does it live?
2. What are its predators?
3. What did ohlone indians use it for?