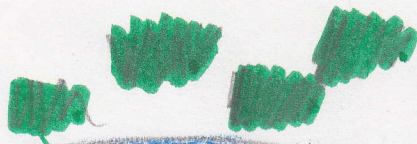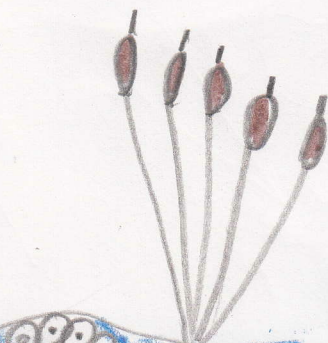# My Wetland Book on The California Newt

Written by **Alejandro**

Hello fellow students. My name is _Alejandro_
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, _California Newt_.

About me…

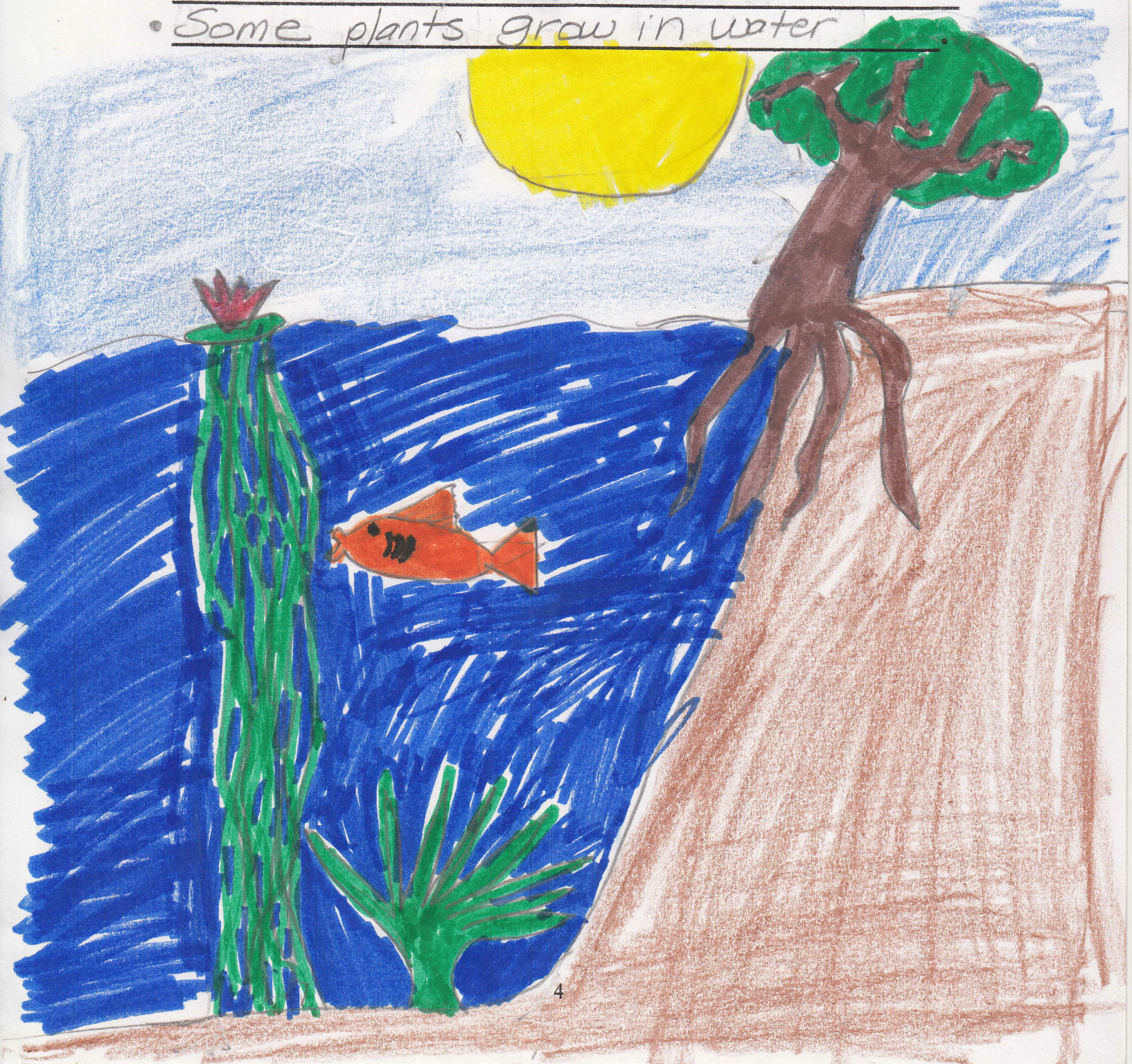**But before I start my book, I'd like to share with you about some of my favorite things.**

I like to ride bikes.
I am good at drawing.
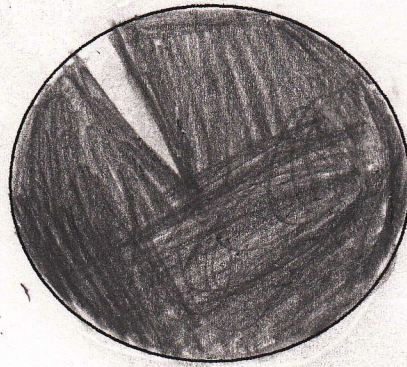But the best thing I like
is drawing fake things.

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

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 the mud is sticky
- Fresh, shallow water
- Some plants grow in water

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.

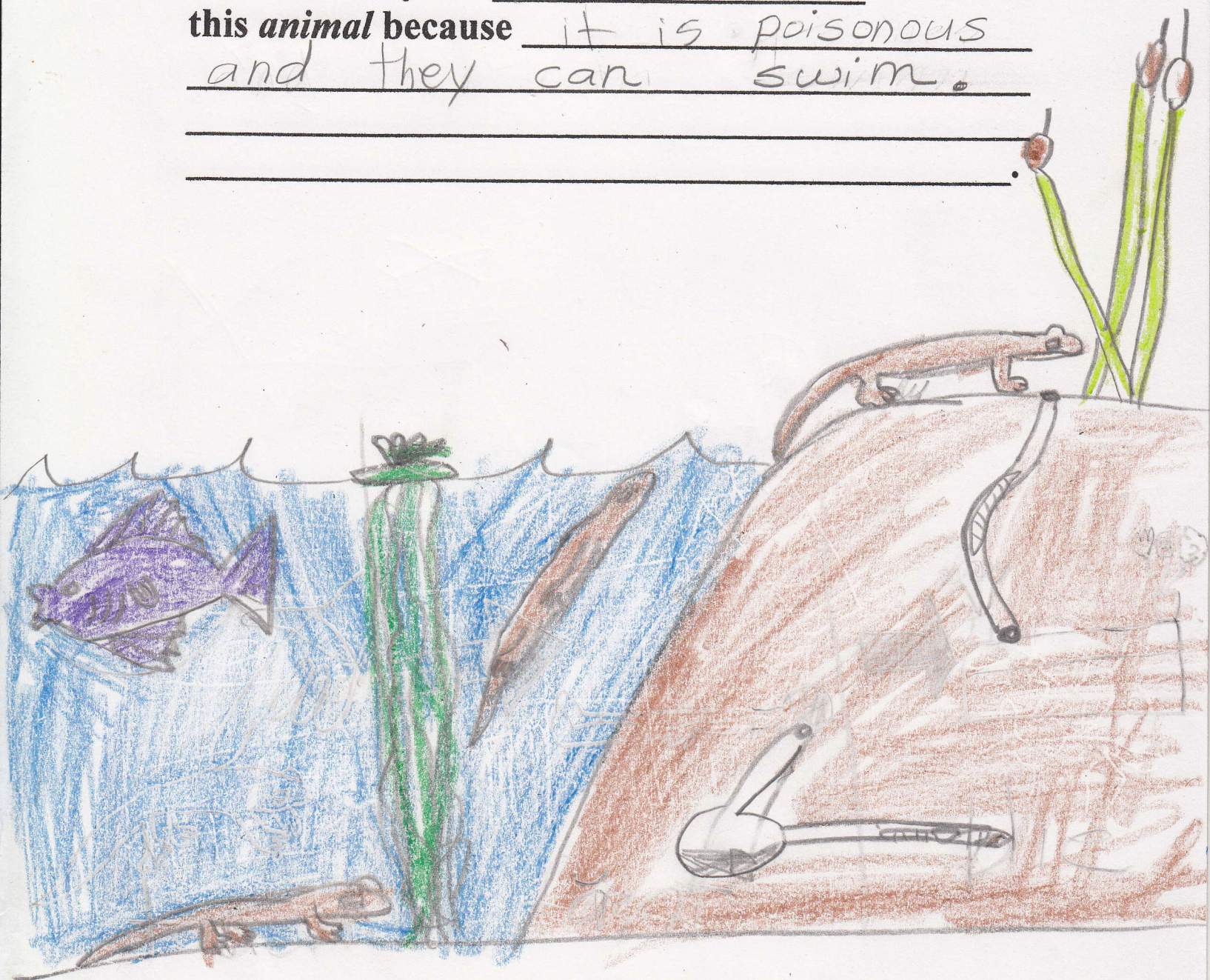pie chart

90%

percentage

$\dfrac{190}{100}$

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:**

- Keep water clean (filter water)
- Control flooding
- Habitat for plants and animals

.

Fourth, there is a particular *animal* of interest to me, namely the California Newt. **I chose this *animal* because** it is poisonous and they can swim.
_____

In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss what I researched about my animal of interest, the _CA Newt_. 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 <u>CA Newt</u> is a <u>Vertebrate</u> because it <u>has</u> a backbone. It is classified as a <u>amphibian</u> because <u>it can go in the water and on land</u>
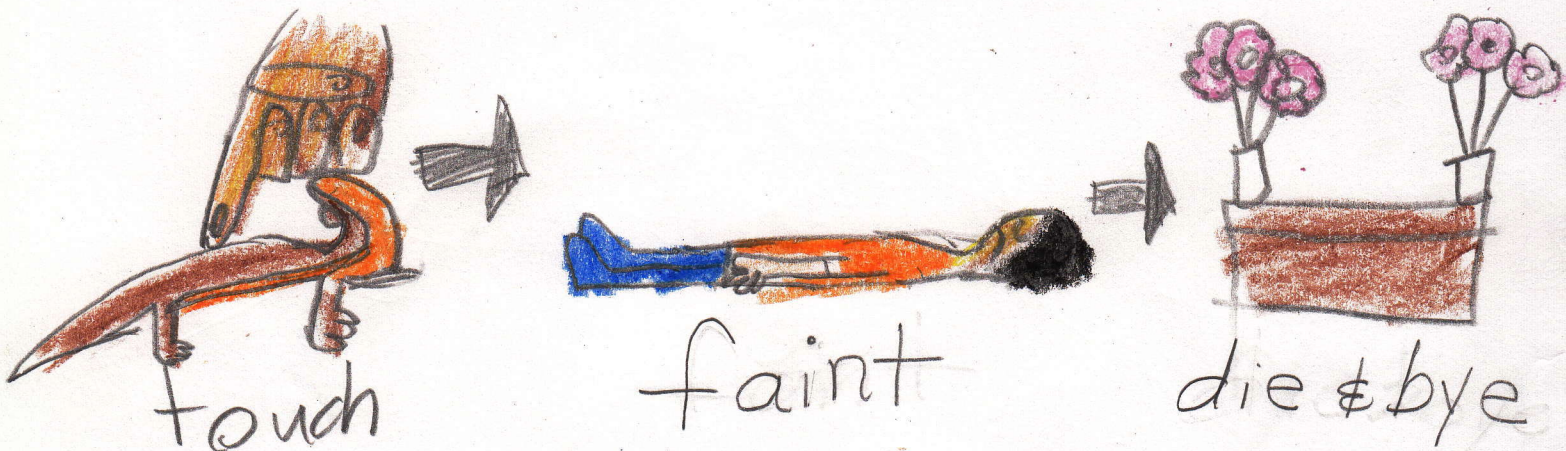_____.

Names

The <u>CA Newt</u> has two names. The common name is <u>California Newt</u>, and the *scientific name* is <u>Toricha torosa</u>
_____.

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

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

My animal looks like a normal lizard but it isn't! Its skin is poisonous.
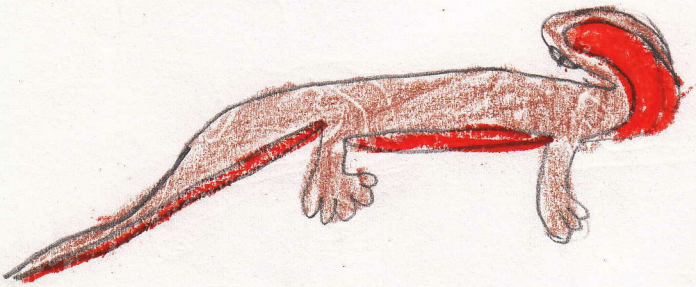

touch → faint → die & bye

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

After looking at my animal and reading more about it, I realize that it camouflages because it goes on leaves and stays very still.

Adaptations

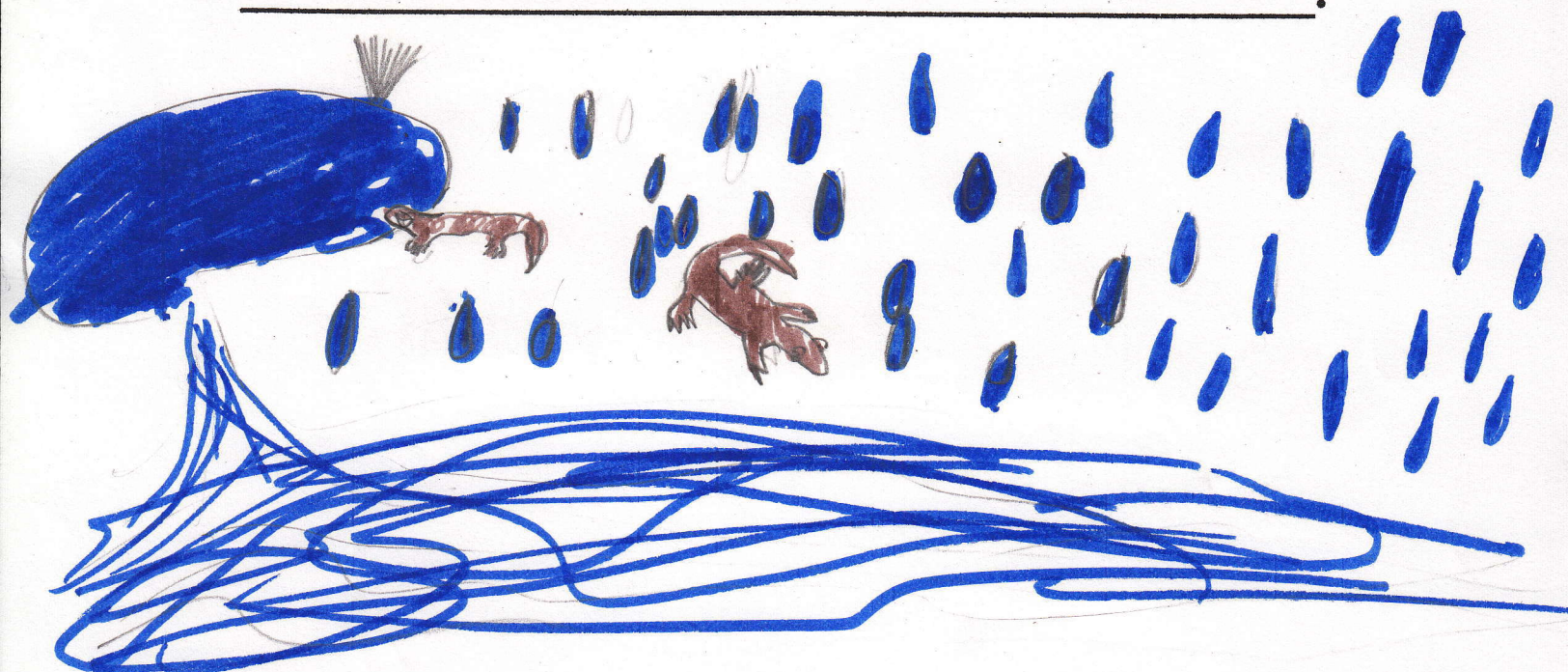My animal is unique because _it carries poison in its belly._

_____

_____

_____ .

Animal behavior

The way I would describe the behavior of my animal is _unusual because it puts its head to its back to show its neck._

_____

_____

_____ .

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Range

The ___CA Newt___ is found ___in California.___
_____
_____
_____.

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

The ___CA Newt does not___ migrate. For
example, ___~~they migrate to the~~___
___However, it will move to a___
___pond, or stream when it___
___rains.___
_____.

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Population

    The population of my animal is <u>reduced</u> <u>because of mosquito fish and</u> <u>red swamp crayfish</u> .

<u>_Status_</u>

    The status of the <u>CA Newt</u> **tells me whether it is endangered, threatened, or stable. What I found out is that the** <u>CA Newt</u> **is** <u>endangered</u> **. I find this interesting because** <u>I never knew</u> <u>the CA Newt was endangered.</u> _____ .

Reproduction

The reproduction of the _CA Newt_ is _that is lays 2 - 30 eggs_ _____ _____ _____ .
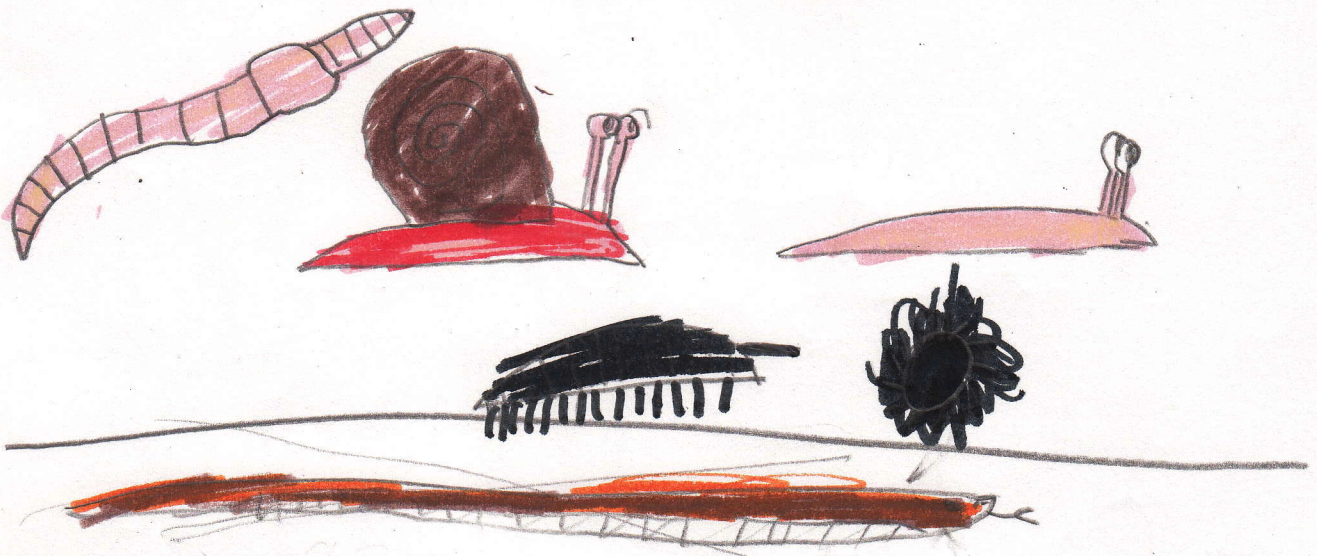
Habitat...home

The _CA Newt_ habitat is _under logs and leaves_ _____ _____ _____ _____ .

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

The prey my animal eats are: Earthworms, snails, slugs, sowbugs, bloodworms, mosquito larvae, and trout eggs.
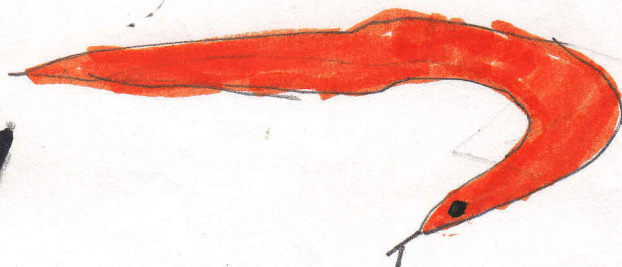
My animal eats other things such as:

_____.

The predators that eat me are: garter snakes and mammals
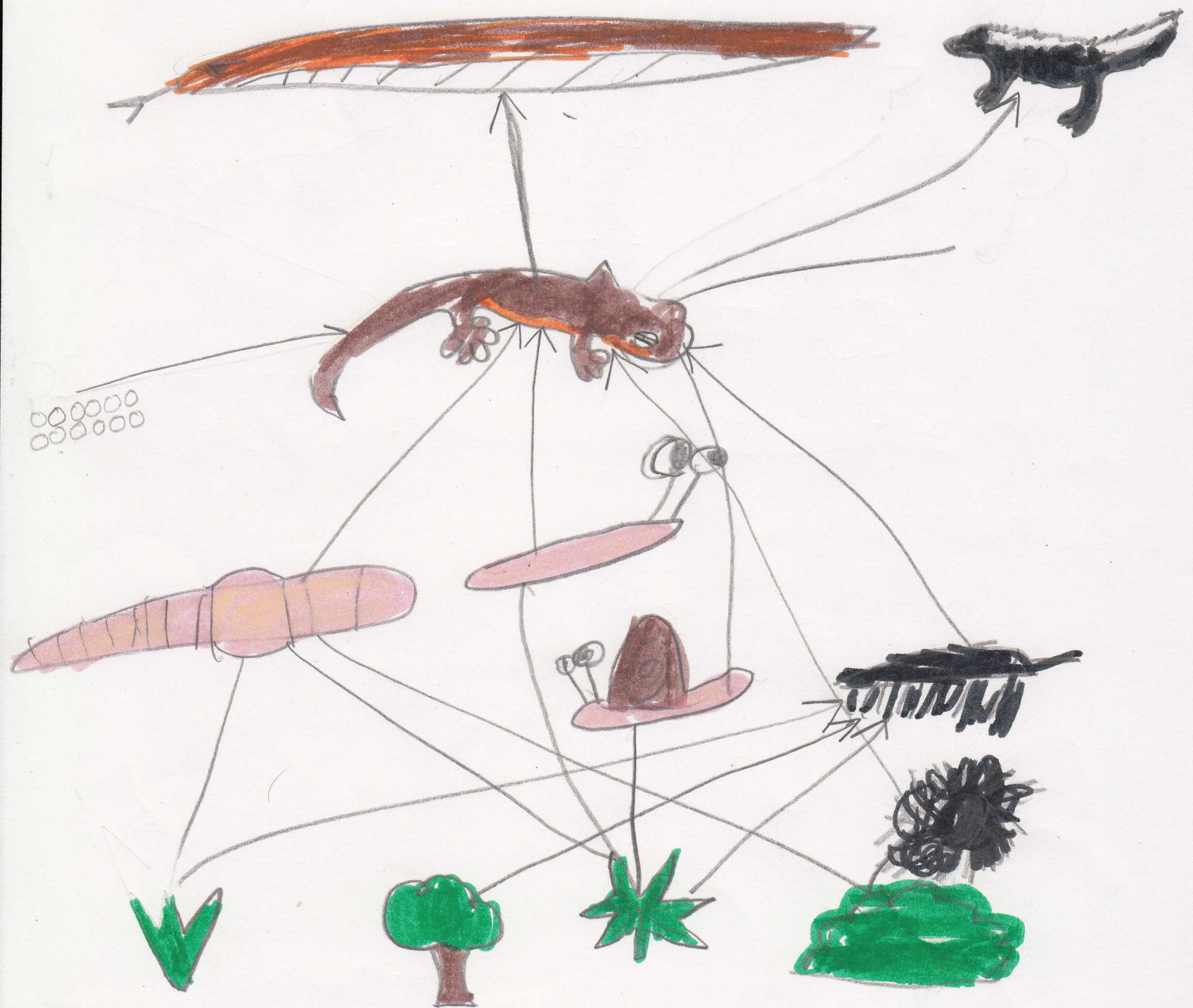
_____.
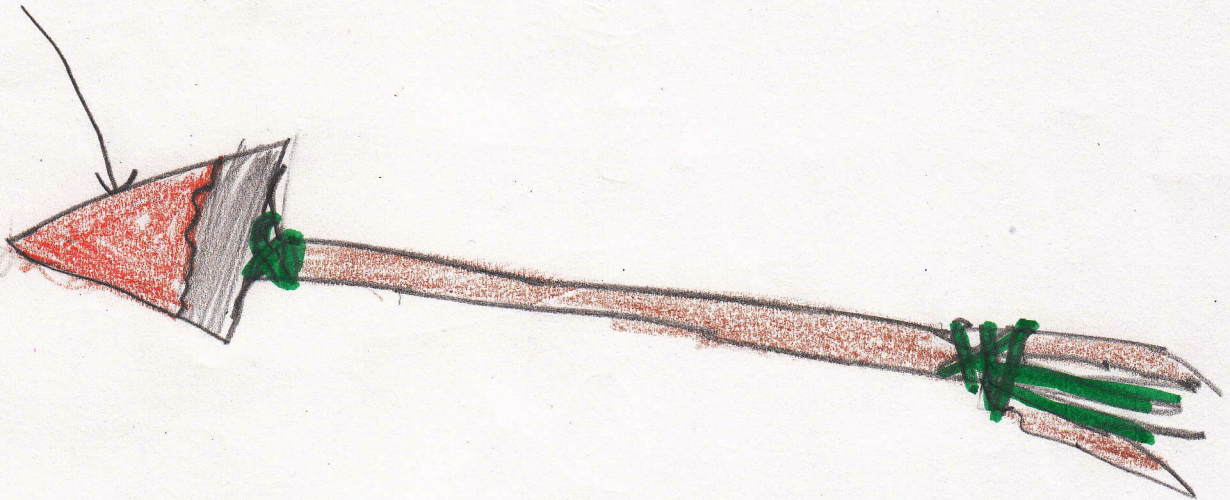
skunk

Food web

My animal is a <u>insectivore</u>. 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 <u>CA Newt</u> **in anyway, for example, for food, clothing, or for other purposes. What I discovered** <u>was the Ohlone Indians</u> <u>used its poison for their</u> <u>arrows for hunting</u>
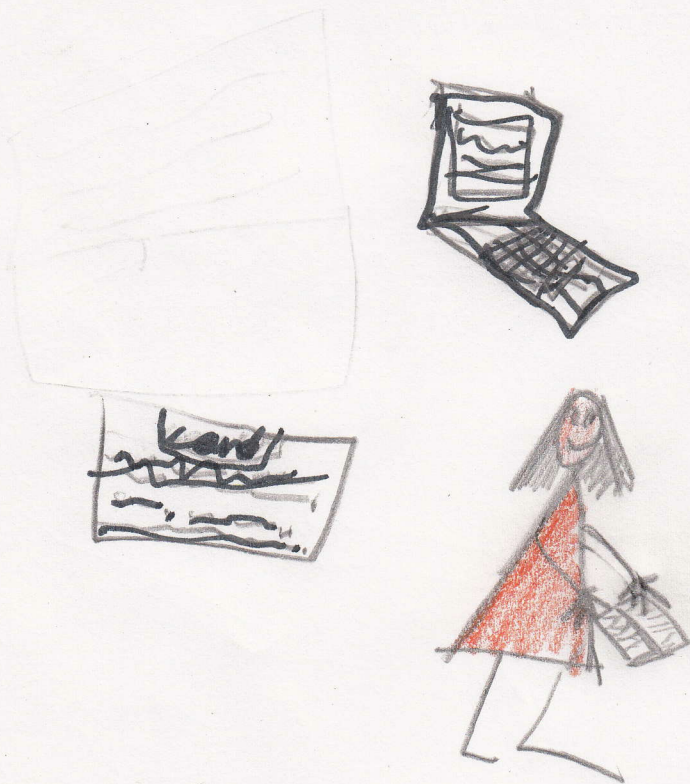
poison

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

www.eriwikipedia.org

Patricia McRade   www.earthcards.com

teacher:Lisa

Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the _California Newt_ **. 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 CA Newt prey on?_

2. _Describe an adaptation of my animal._

3. _Can it swim?_