

My Ocean Book on Striped Shore Crab



Written by Dannika M.

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



About me...

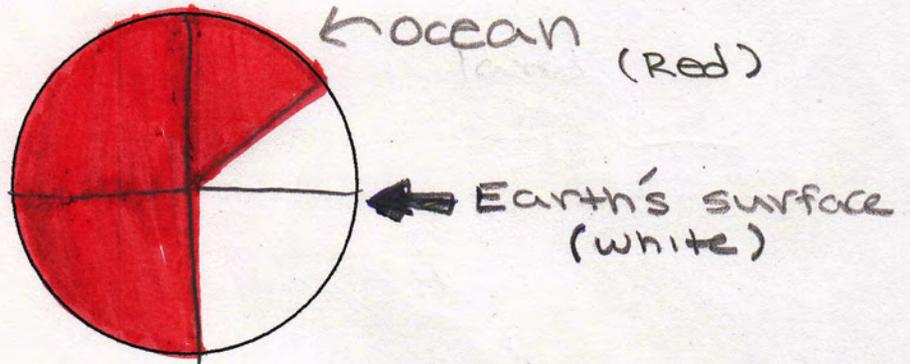
But before I start my book, I'd like to share with you about some of my favorite things.

My favorite sports are kickball, hand ball and baseball. My favorite food is, sushi, enchilladas and lasanga. My favorite things I like to do during my free time is draw, paint or write stories.



Okay, now I'm ready to write about what oceans are, their importance, and facts about one of my favorite animals, the Striped Shore Crab.

First, *oceans* are essentially the largest ecosystem on planet earth, covering 67% of earth's surface. This can be demonstrated in the following ways below:



pie chart

67%

percentage

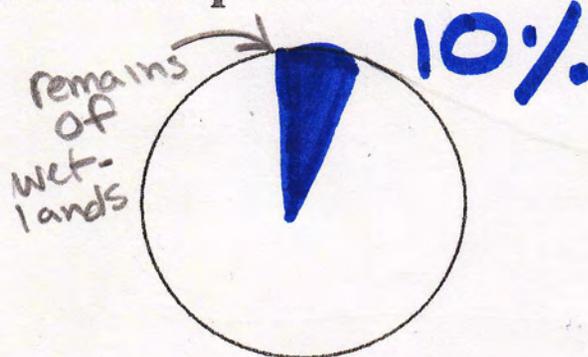
$\frac{67}{100}$

fraction

0.67

decimal

Second, 90% of the wetlands have been destroyed. That means, only 10% remain today. We must conserve and protect with ecosystem.



pie chart

percentage

10%

fraction

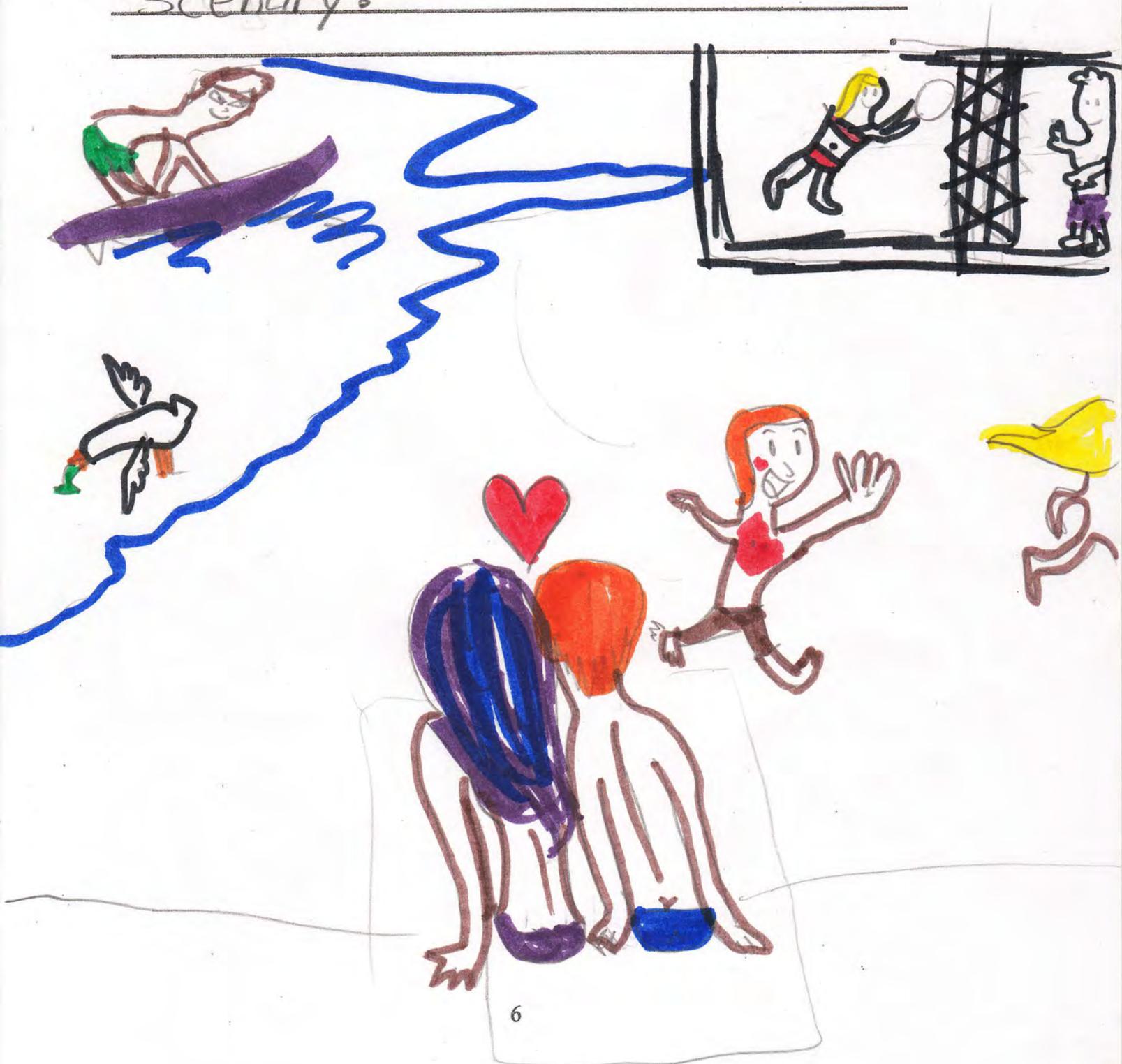
$\frac{10}{100}$

decimal

0.10

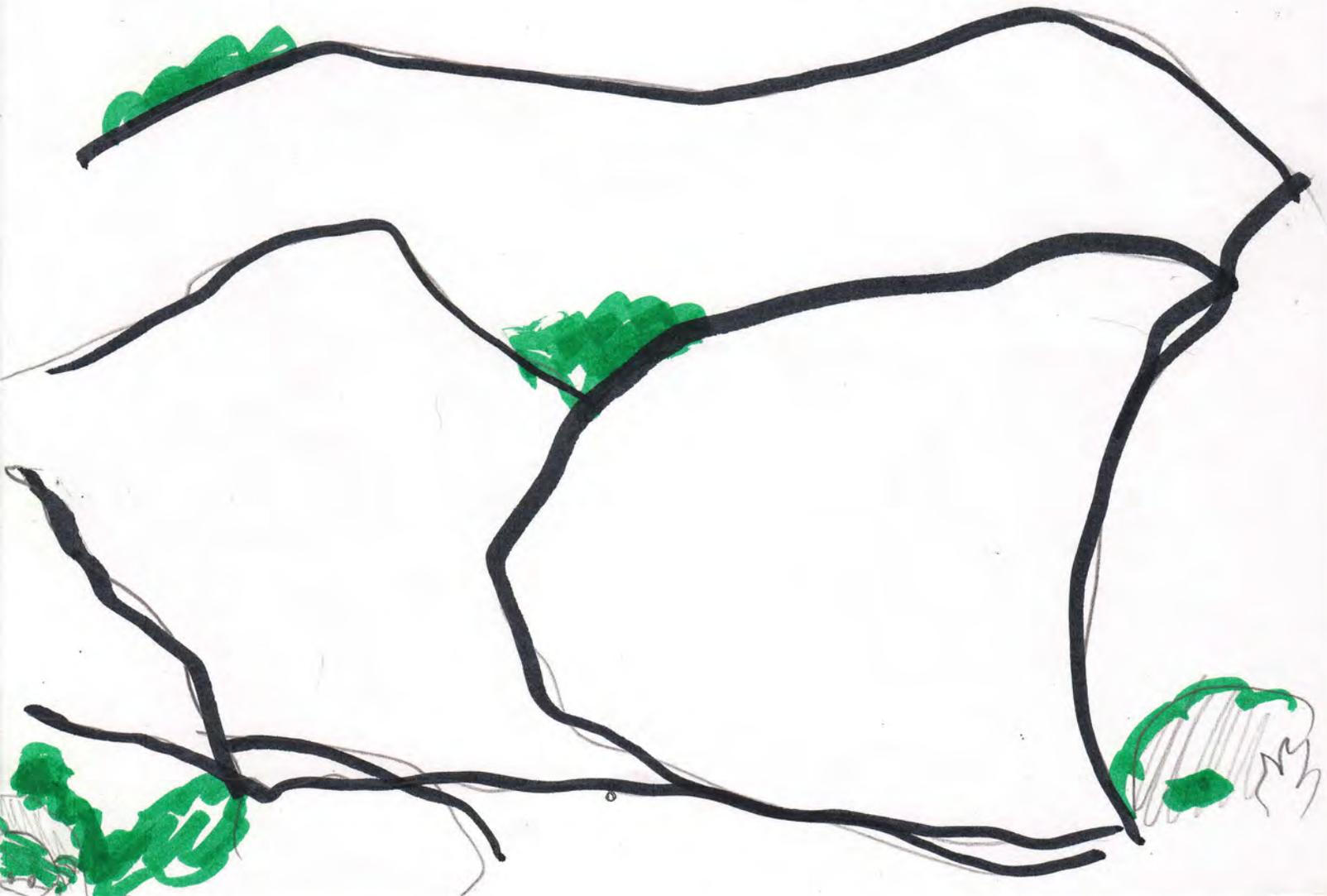
Third, we are very fortunate to literally have the ocean so close to us. The ocean serves many *important* purposes, such as:

Food for animals, to go to the beach, and enjoy the beautiful scenery.



In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss what I researched about my animal of interest, the striped Shore Crab. 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!*

CAN you Find the Crab?



Classification

The Striped Shore Crab is a invertebrate because it does not have a backbone. It is classified as a crustacean because it has a shell on its body.



Names

The Striped Shore Crab has two names. The common name is the Striped Shore Crab, and the scientific name is Pachygrapsus
Crassipes.

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

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

My animal's main body shell is up to 48 mm. Its back shell is a boxy shape and it's up to 4-5 cm in size. The colors are a shade of red, purple and green.



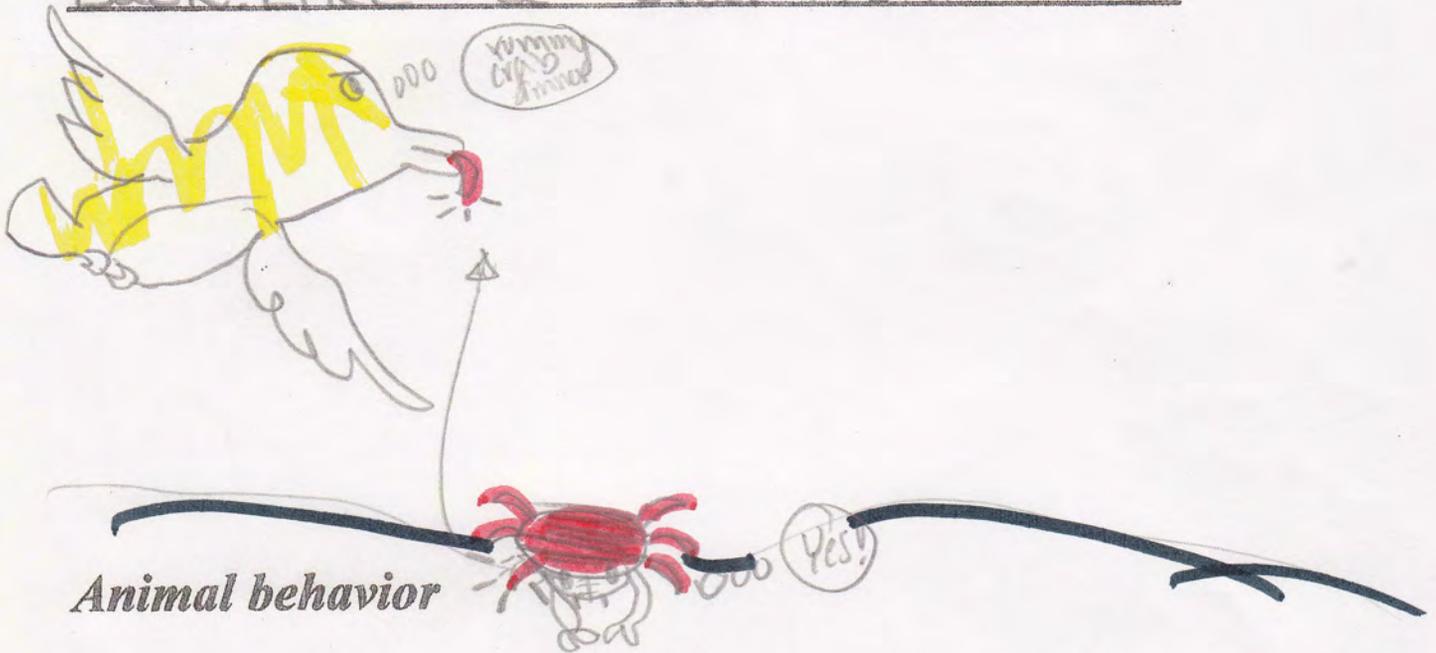
Camouflage... does my animal blend into its environment?

After looking at my animal and reading more about it, I realize that it can camouflage.

It's actually a very good camouflager.
It camouflages in its habitat.
Sometimes it's easy to find them, other times, it's hard.

Adaptations

My animal is unique because when one
of the predators grabs it by
the legs, the crab could cut it off,
and a new one will grow
back like a starfish.



Animal behavior

The way I would describe the behavior of my
animal is it's usually a solitary animal
that's aggressive to one another,
When they get in fights, the large crab
always wins the argument. They fight over food, but
not the feeding territories.

Range

The Striped Shore crab is found between
Charleston, Oregon to Baja California
and the Gulf of California. Not to
mention Japan, Korea and California Northwest.



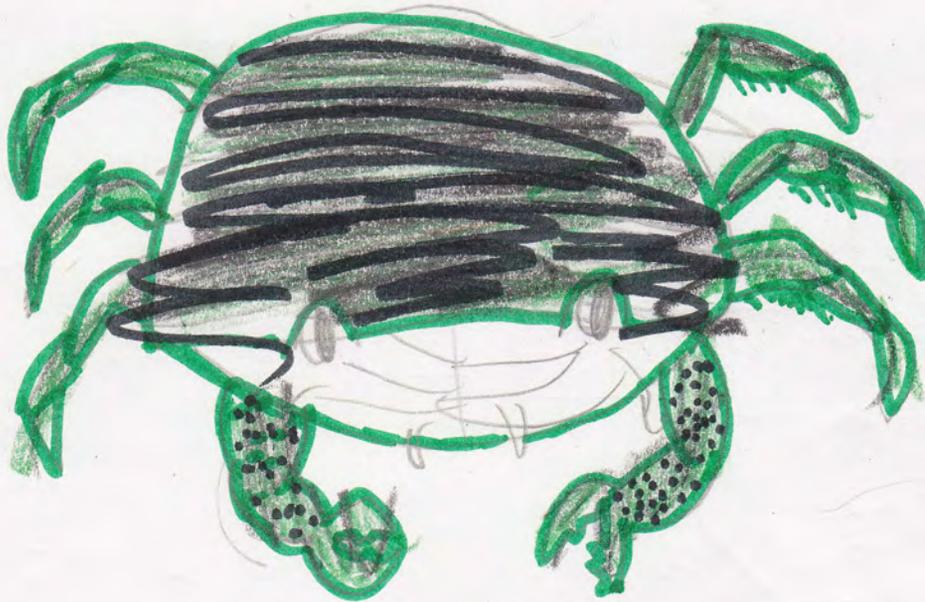
Migratory...does it travel from one location to another during seasons?

The Pachygrapsus Crassipes ^{does not} migrate. For example, if you check any web-site or information about the crab, it says it doesn't migrate.

Population

The population of my animal is abundant.

10. Volve but endemic, resulting from a
divergence estimated between 0.8 to 1.2 mya.



Status

The status of the Striped Shore Crab tells me whether it is endangered, threatened, or stable.

What I found out is that the Striped Shore Crab is Stable. I find this

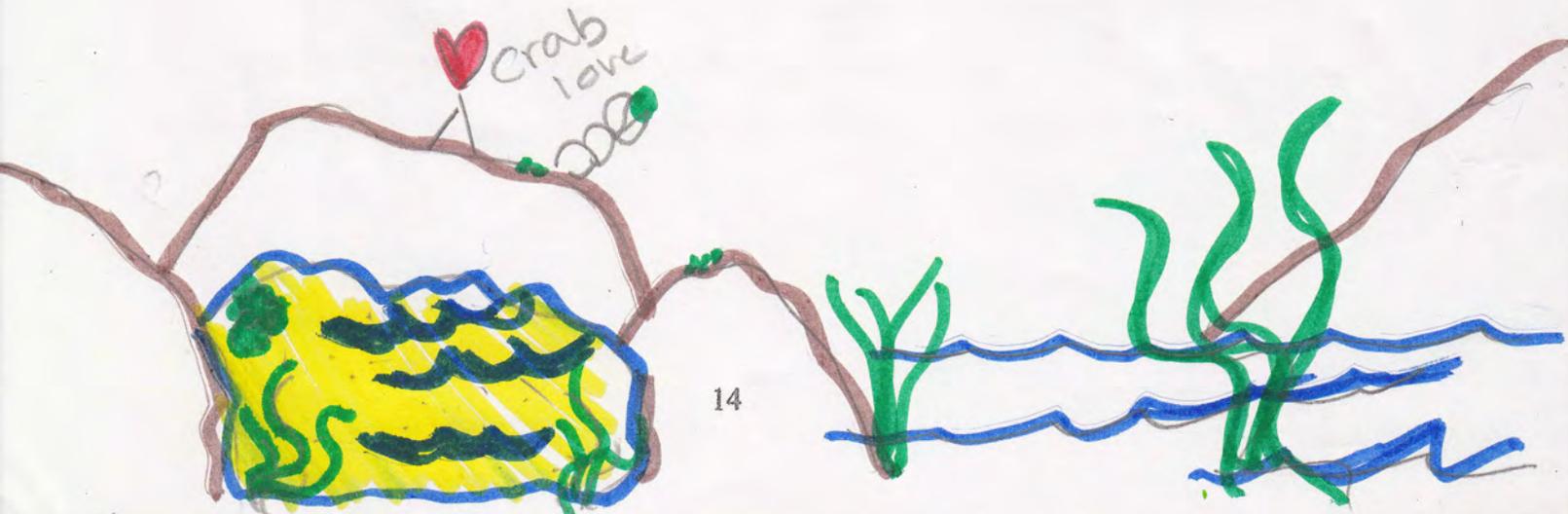
interesting because I'm glad that they're not endangered because they're cute and interesting animals to learn about.

Reproduction

The reproduction of the striped shore crab is that it takes place during the months of April and September. The mating usually occurs once or twice a year. When the eggs are fertilized, the female keeps them under her belly. She can lay 50,000 eggs.

Habitat...home

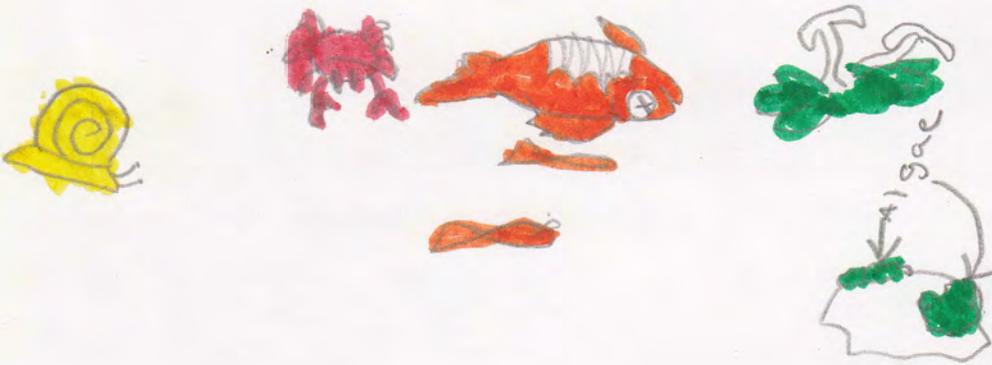
The Striped Shore Crab's habitat is in tide pools and muddy shores of bays, estuaries, flats and salt marshes.



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

The prey my animal eats are: limpets, snails,
other crabs and dead fish. They eat
plants, coral, algae and other types of plants.

My animal eats other things such as:
plants called: algae and decaying plants.

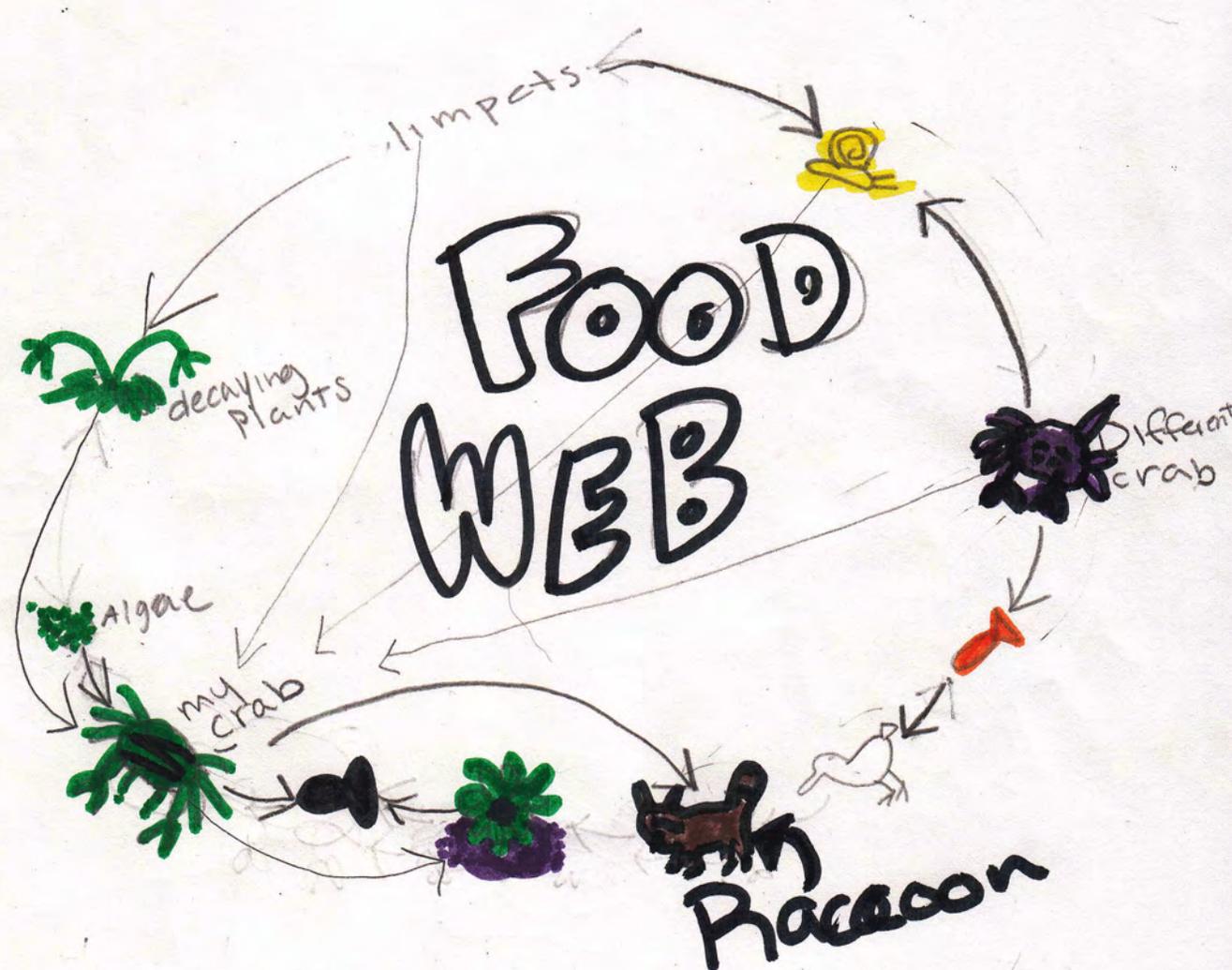


The predators that eat me are: Seagulls,
raccoons, anemones and fish

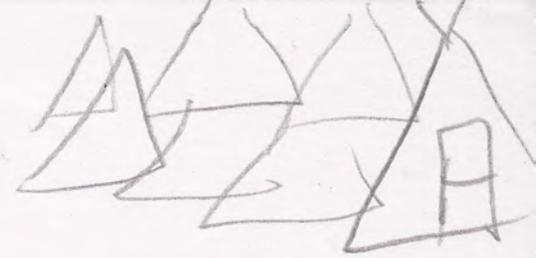


Food web

My animal is an omnivore & ^{scavenger}. 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 Striped Shore Crab in anyway, for example, for food, clothing, or for other purposes. What I discovered is that the Pachygrapsus Crassipes (the Striped Shore Crab) shell was used by the Ohlone Indians as a tool or a decoration.



References

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

www.noaa.gov

www.asmarisodyssey.com/LEARN ABOUT CRAB/
montereybay.noaa.gov ~~crablabi.php~~ crablabi.php.

ADW: Pachygrapsus Crassipes

monterey bay.noaa.gov Didn't write any informational sites

Web

Sites

Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the Pachygrapsus Crassipes. 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 is a unique adaptation for the crab?
2. Name the predators.
3. Does the animal migrate?