

**My Wetland Book on Bush Monkeyflower**



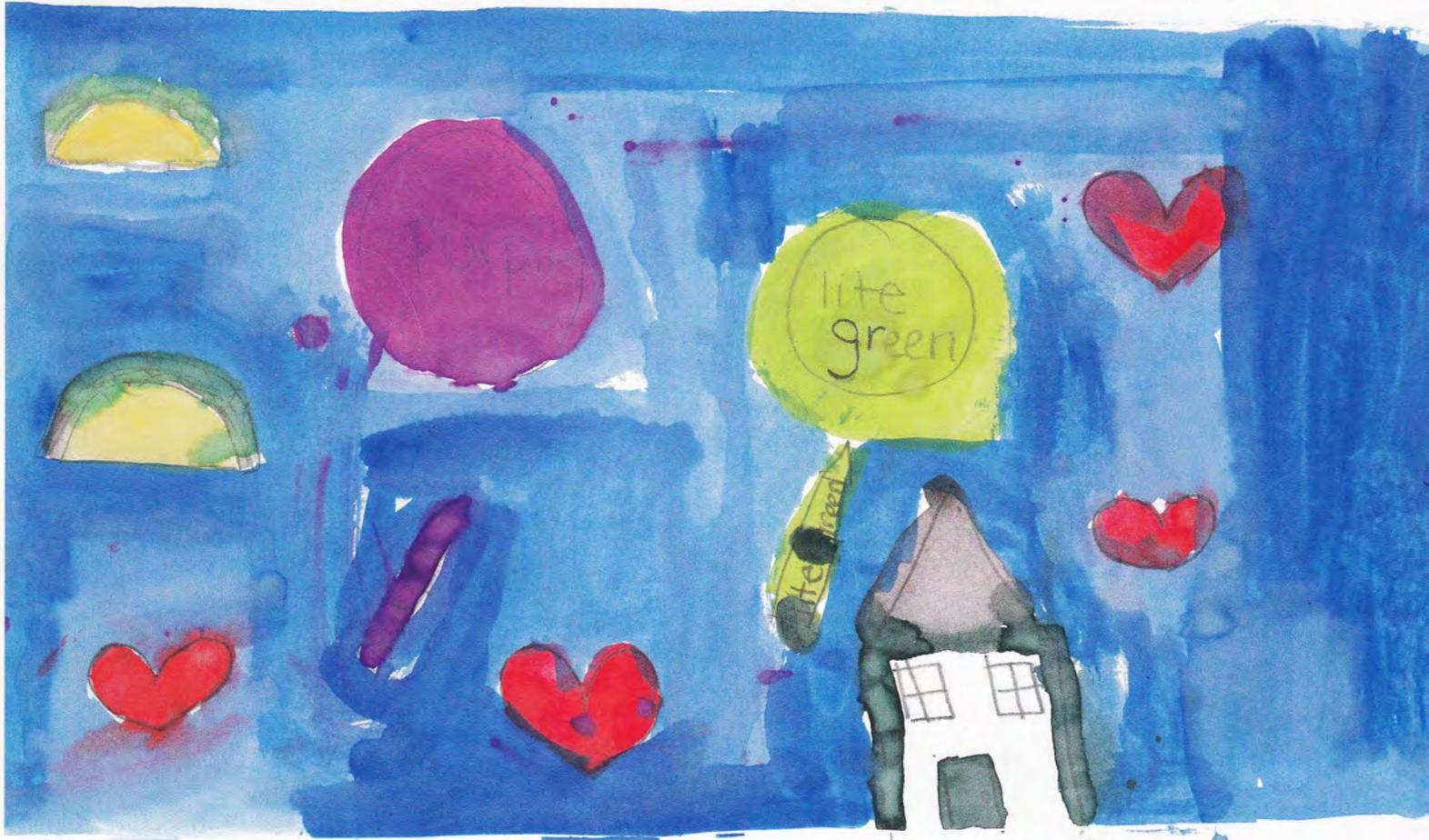
**Written by Elizabeth**

Hello fellow students. My name is Elizabeth and I'm a 5<sup>th</sup> 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 a plant of particular interest to me, Bush Monkeyflower.



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

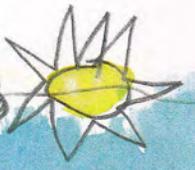
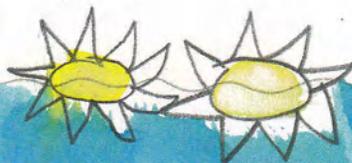
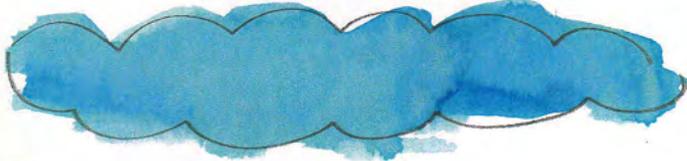
I like to eat tacos. Also my favorite color is purple and light green. My most favorite thing is going to school. Also is drawing hearts.



**Okay, now I'm ready to write about what *wetlands* are and facts about one of my favorite animals, Bush Monkeyflower.**

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:

- water is shallow
- has water plants like duck weed and water lilies
- mud is sticky & like clay.



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

- prevents floods
- filters water clean
- habitat for the animals and plants



Third, there is a particular plant of interest to me, namely the Bush monkey flower. I chose this plant because it has the name monkey which is my favorite animal. Also because it is yellow, my favorite color.



**In the following paragraphs, I will briefly discuss the following: common name, scientific name, physical characteristics, needs, range, if the plant is native or non-native, habitat, adaptations, population, status, animals that eat the plant, and whether Ohlone Indians used the plant. I hope you enjoy the book!**

## **Names**

The Bush Monkeyflower has two names. The common name is Bush monkeyflower, and the scientific name is Mimulus aurantiacus

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

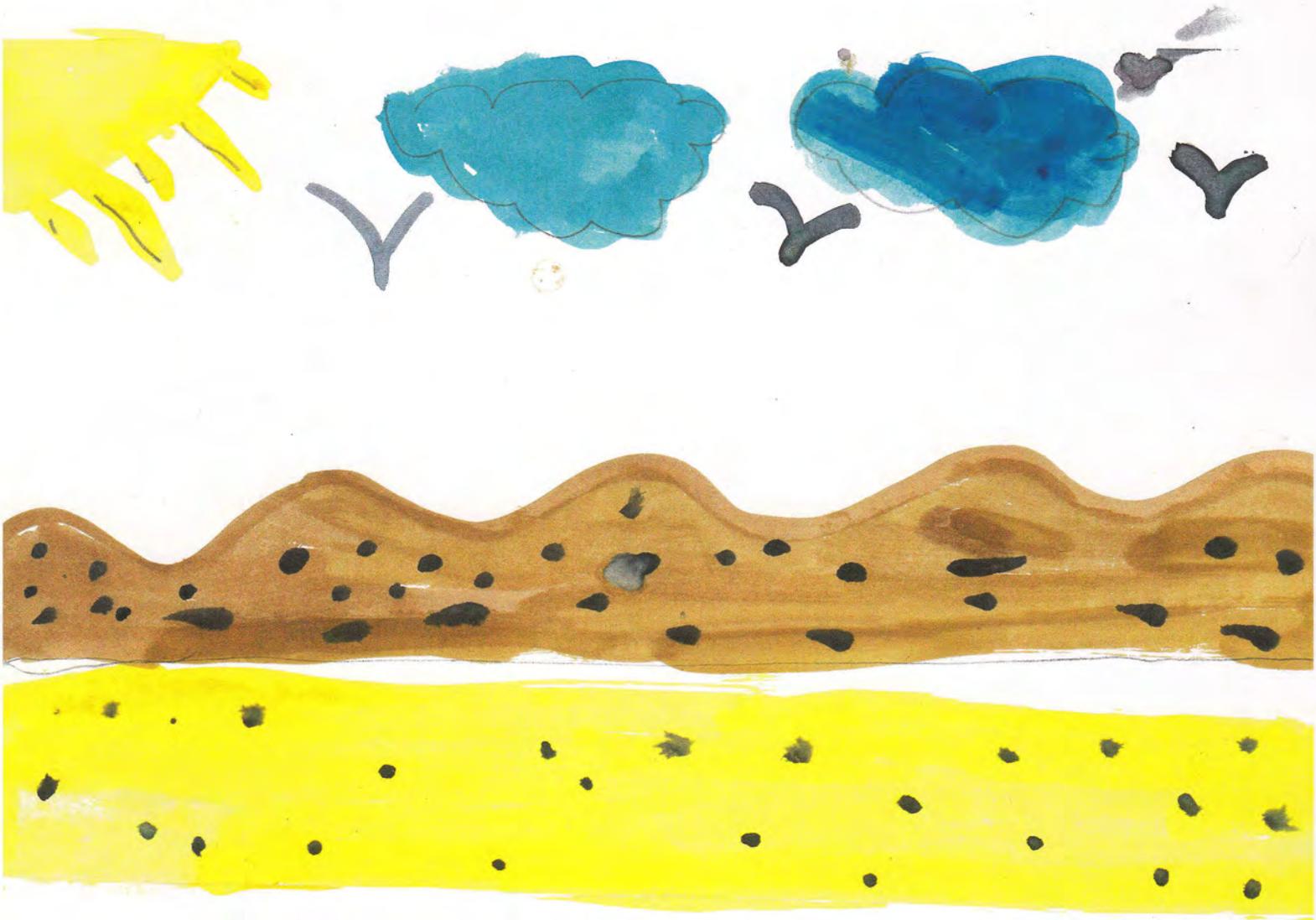
## **Physical characteristics...my plant looks like...**

My plant grows up to 1.2 meters - 4  
feet tall and has deep green sticky  
leaves 3 to 7 and it is yellow  
and orange

## Needs...

In order to grow, it needs wet soil, dry soil, and rocky soil. It will grow in serpentine soil; a soil that most plants have difficulty thriving in because of its unique mineral composition.

The Bush Monkeyflower is also very important to the wetlands because it provides oxygen to the environment. This is essential for our survival.



**Range...where it's found...**

The range is Southwest Oregon  
through most of California

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**Native or non-native...to belong or not to belong...**

My plant is native to California.  
It comes from California

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**Habitat...where plant lives...**

The habitat is Desert + chaparral.

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**Adaptations...special features...**

After researching the Bush Monkey flower,  
I've discovered that it can grow in wet soil,  
dry sandy, or rocky. It even grows in a  
serpentine soil, a soil that most  
plants have difficulty thriving  
in because of its unique mineral  
composition.

## **Population**

The population of the Bush Monkeyflower is about 150 species and currently placed in the family Phrymaceae.

## **Status**

The status of the Bush Monkeyflower is Endangered.

## **Who or what eats me?**

The moths, hummingbirds,  
and Bees eat this plant.

### ***Ohlone Indians...***

**I was curious to investigate whether the Ohlone Indians used the Bush Monkeyflower for any purposes. What I discovered was**

the Miwok and the Pomo Native American's used its flowers and roots to treat a number of ailments but was particularly useful for antiseptic qualities as it expedited the healing of minor scrapes and burns.



## References

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Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the Bush Monkeyflower. 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:**

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**Questions for you: (Can you answer these...)**

1. Have you seen the Bush Monkeyflower? where?
2. Do you like the Bush Monkeyflower? why?
3. Can you name an adaptation of this flower?