

My Wetland Book on The California Ground Squirrel



Written by Erick

Hello fellow students. My name is ERICK 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, the California ground squirrel.



About me...

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

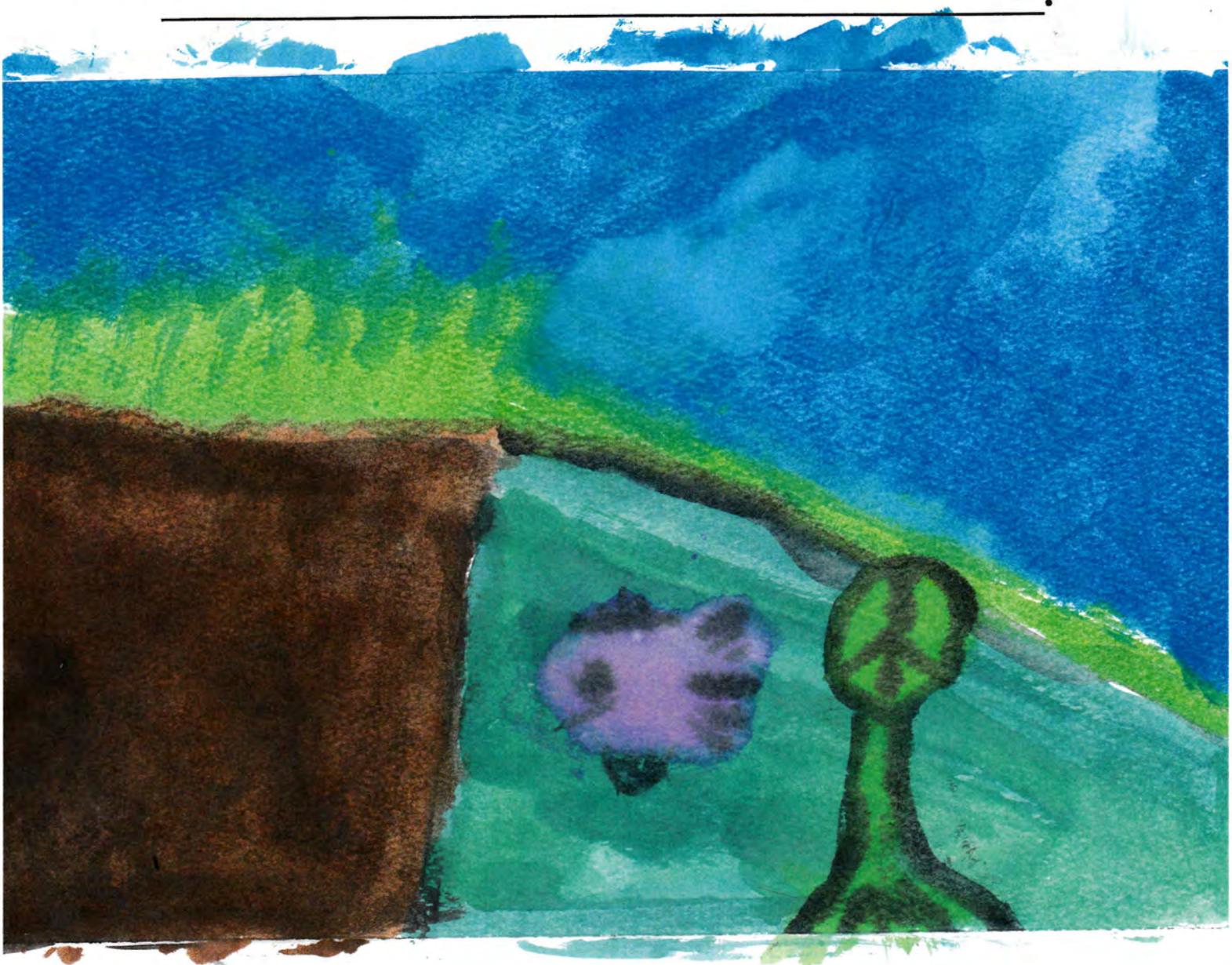
I like to play video games, read, eat candy, and other stuff.



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

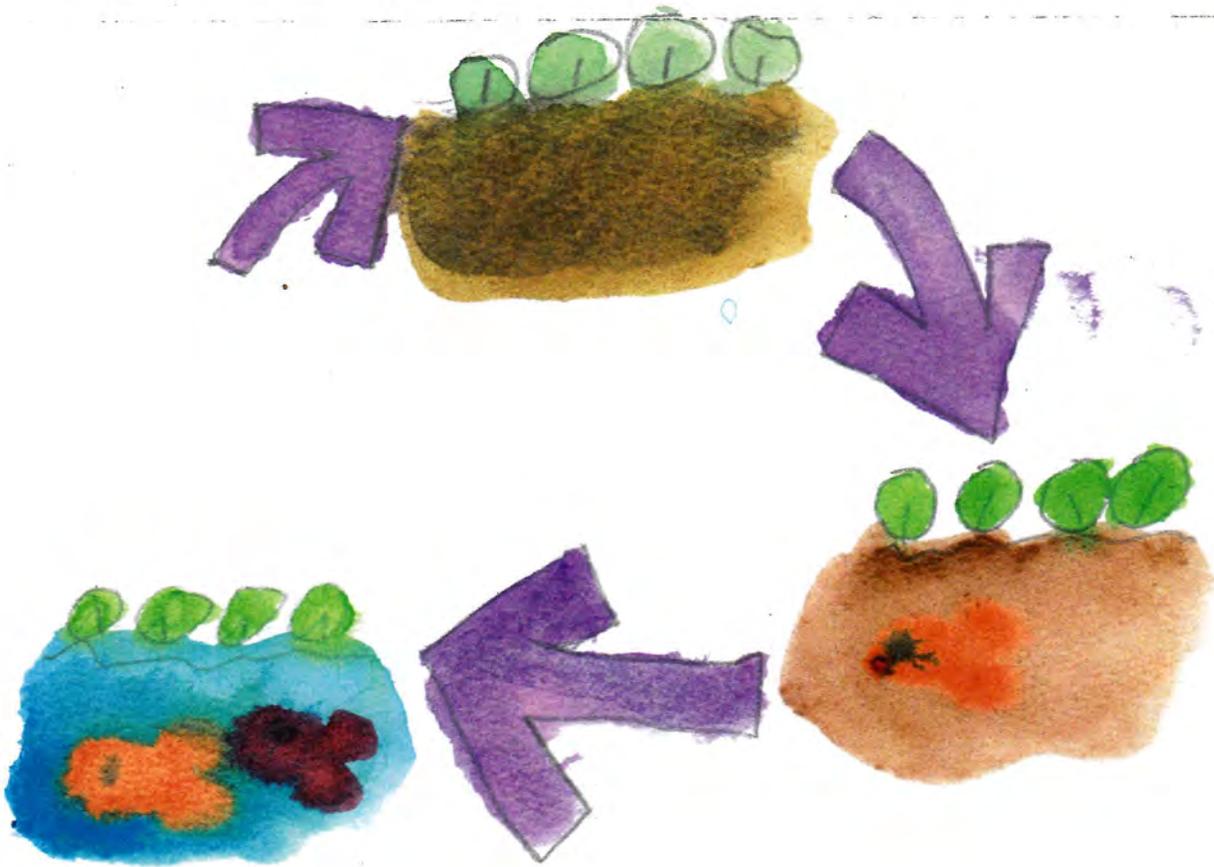
First, *wetlands* are essentially a very unique ecosystem in that the land is always, or at least most of time, wet- hence the name, *wetlands*. This ecosystem has special characteristics such as:

it is always wet, has sticky mud, and has lots of animals and plants.



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, and
provides a habitat for many
plants and animals.



Third, there is a particular animal of interest to me, namely the california ground squirrel. I chose this animal because I like every type of squirrel and because they have bushy, furry, big tails



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 California ground squirrel is a vertebrate because it has a backbone. It is classified as a mammal because it has hair, gives birth to a live baby, and they feed their babies milk.

Names

The California ground squirrel has two names. The common name is CA ground, 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 looks grayish-brown and has dusky fur. A band of slightly darker fur, with light gray that extends from the head over the middle of the back, and the undersides are light.



this is his back

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

After reading about my animal, I realize that
it can camouflage with the dead leaves
and ground.

Adaptations

My animal is unique because it uses
its cheek pouches to
collect nuts and acorns.
There aren't too many animals
that can do that!

Animal behavior

The way I would describe the behavior of my animal is it can store food in its
cheeks and they give a high-pitched
alarm to warn others of
danger.

Range

The ^{California} Ground squirrel is found in Central Washington
western Oregon, California and into
the northern part of Baja California,
_____.

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

The ^{California Ground} squirrel does not migrate. For
example, it eats some nuts then it
goes into its burrow. It does
hibernate during the winter months.

_____.

Population

The population of my animal is unknown

Status

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

What I found out is that the population is unknown.

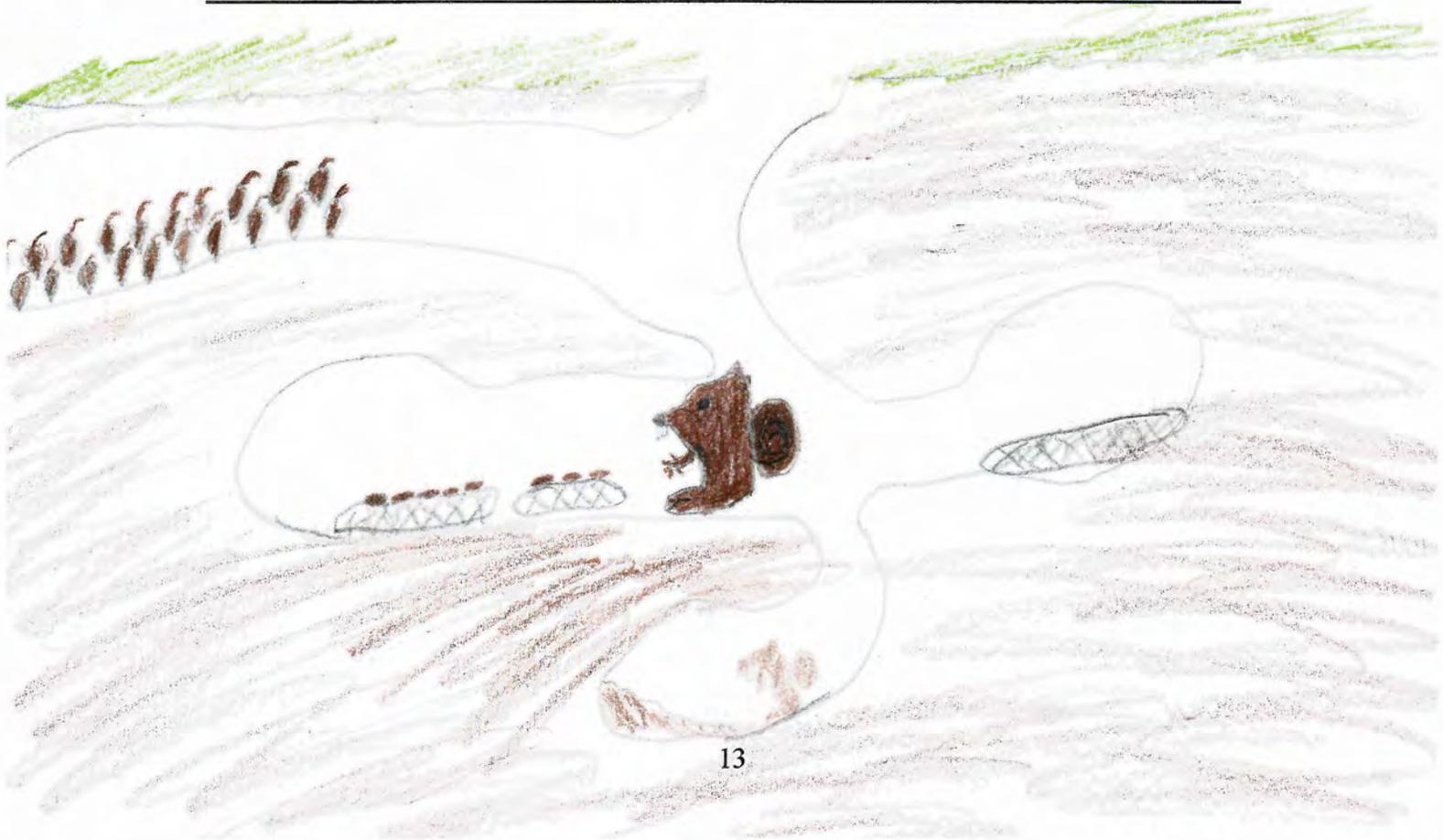
I find this interesting because _____

Reproduction

The reproduction of the squirrel is that they mate in early Spring for only a few weeks. The number of offspring averages to about 8 babies per litter each year.

Habitat...home

The ^{CA ground} squirrel habitat is in the plains, small meadows, trees, hillsides, rocky outcrops, and underground.



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

The prey my animal eats are: grasshoppers, insects, crickets, beetles, and caterpillars.

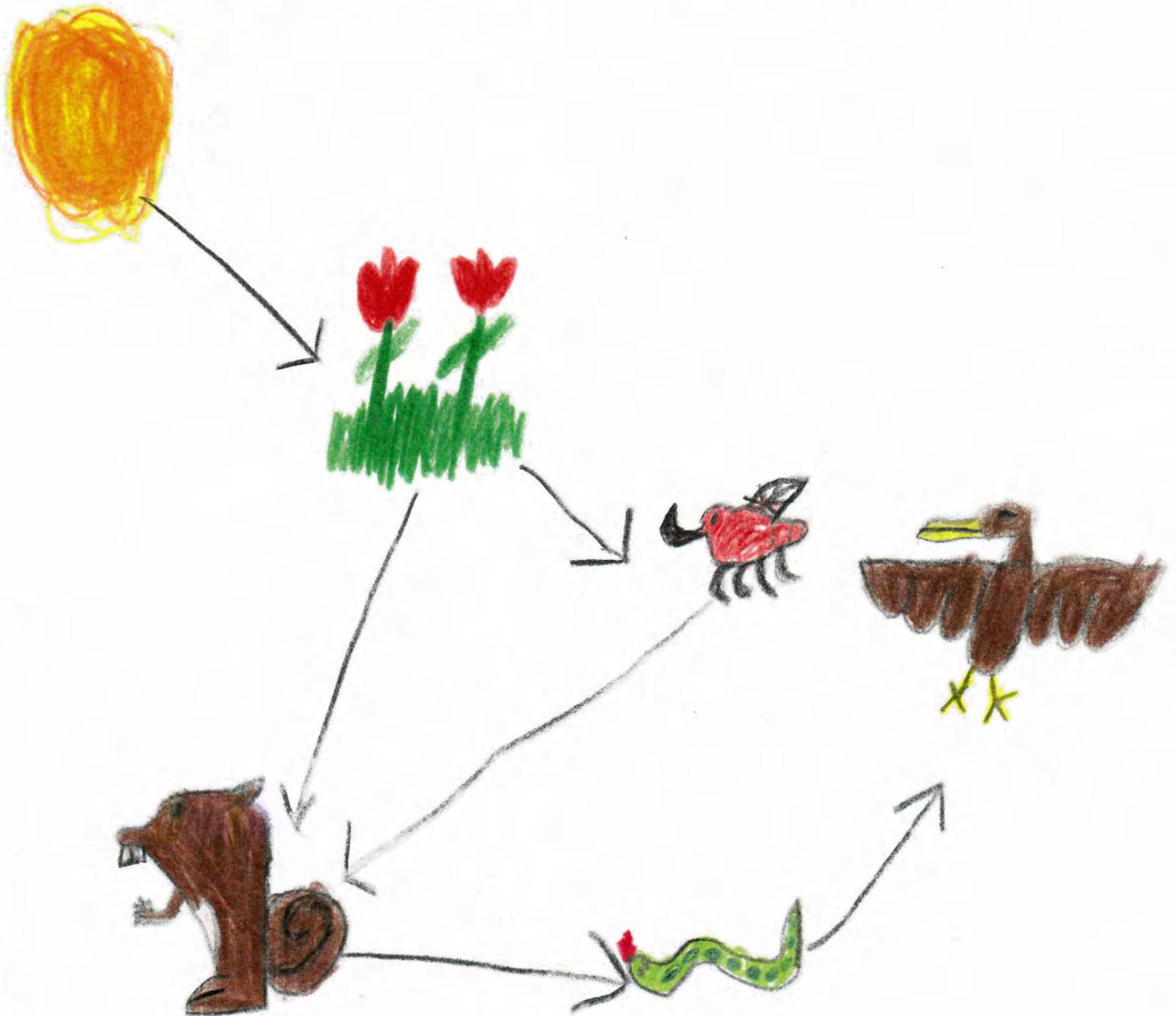


The predators that eat me are: red tailed hawks, golden eagles, coyotes, foxes, badgers, weasles, house cats, dogs, and snakes.



Food web

My animal is a herbivore & insectivore. 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 california ground squirrel in anyway, for example, for food, clothing, or for other purposes. What I discovered was that they used it for its meat, fur, and bones.



References

Nature mapping foundation, org
Animaldiversity.umz.umich.edu

Thank you for reading my book. I hope you enjoyed it and learned a lot about the CA 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: (Can you answer these...)

1. Do you know how many babies are in a litter?
2. Can you name an adaptation of my animal?
3. Can you describe what my animal does to warn others of danger?