



PATRICK J. FITZ
WETLANDS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
To inspire research, education & conservation of the wetlands & watersheds of the Pajaro Valley

Day #4 Wetland Food Webs and Water Quality

10 min. – Introduction at the grassy hill by nature center

- Have students stand or sit in a circle, introduce the docents
- Introduce Watsonville Slough and briefly look at watershed map
- Have students look around and name some animals that may call this wetland home. Why might these animals come here? – For food!
- Introduce the wetland food web and aquatic invertebrates
- Discuss the importance of biodiversity
- Introduce what aquatic invertebrates can tell us about water quality
- Today students will be the scientists!
- Review rules and consequences
- Safety- poison oak

15 minutes- Wetland tour

- After introductions, split out into groups with an adult in each group. Groups take a tour of Watsonville Slough by bridge and make observations of what animals are using the slough for habitat.

30 min. stations

- Aquatic invertebrate sampling and identification- see Aquatic invertebrates as bioindicators lesson and datasheet

10 min. – Closing at grass hill and snack

- Pool data and discuss the results
- How might this info change over the course of the year? What may have an positive/ negative effect on water quality?
- How can our behavior improve water quality?
- Introduce next week's field trip

10-20 min. drive back to the school on the bus, have kids say thank you to the bus driver

Materials –

- Mentor backpacks
- Aquatic invertebrates as bioindicators data sheet
- See materials list in Aquatic invertebrates as bioindicators lesson
- Snacks and water

Extras:

- o Radios
- o First aid kit
- o Boots (if needed)



PATRICK J. FITZ

WETLANDS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

To inspire research, education & conservation of the wetlands & watersheds of the Pajaro Valley

*** Things that need to be done ahead of time:

- Coordinate docents with Kathy
- Check in with Bus 7 days ahead of time