|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   **Interesting stories about the Arroyo Del Valle!**  In an effort to make Biology a more complete science experience, Pia Roselli & I decided to require students to do a research project. We met after school on several occasions to work out the details. Our concerns were:   * Identification of an adequate number of creek projects to support students that were unable to select their own * Develop a timeline that would provide ample oppotunity for the students to collect data and at the same time enable us to complete the core curriculum. * Develop a rubric for correcting student work * Define guidelines that would prevent our students research from significantly damaging the creek habitat * Creating support materials for students   I offered my students extra credit if they were to submit their research project in Web Page format. My hope was to establish an archive of student work that could provide example for future student projects as well as chronicle the work that Amador biolgy students have done in the Arroyo.I expected projects in the first year to have many flaws and weaknesses. I hoped by archiving their work the numbers of mistakes would diminish in future years and the quality of the data collected would continue to improve.  Project topics included population studies, animal behavior, chemical analysis of water and soil samples, and studying the impact of abiotic factors on the distribution of flora and fauna. Student enthusiasm was high. Many students that submitted superior work were students that had some difficulty taking tests. It seemed very appropriate that biology students were given an opportunity to demonstrate their love for science in ways that did not require mastery of test taking. The experience this first year was a positive one. I decided to continue making field research a requirement of my Biology curriculum. Next year we will start the projects in the Fall with follow up work in the Spring.     |  | | --- | | Copyright © 2008 Amador Valley High. All Rights Reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or medium without express written permission of Amador Valley is prohibited. | |