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| |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   **Interesting stories about the Arroyo Del Valle!**  In October 1996 while walking down the trail to enter the Arroyo Del Valle study site Amador students observed an unprecedented number of Turkey vultures perched in the eucalyptus trees on both sides of the creek. Some were warming up in the early morning cool air by fully extending their wings without taking to flight. Students were awe struck by this impressive display. Little did they realize what the collection of vultures indicated.  Once entering the study area the students came to realize the reason they had collected there. Hundreds of dead fish, some as big as 50cm, floated on the creeks surface. Numerous crawdads were out of the water on the creek bank barely alive or recently dismembered by scavengers. The late morning and early afternoon classes noticed an obvious lack of aquatic insect activity. No living specimens were collected. With the exception of a few foamy patches on the creeks surface (most concentrated around the dead fish,) there was no immediate indication what had happened. Students scurried around to try and collect any specimens that might be saved by relocating them to my 150 gallon aquarium.  That afternoon many students attempted to determine the cause of the catastrophe. Local business were visited and phone calls were made. No answer was acquired by the next school day. The next day we reviewed the video of what we had seen and talked about the possible cause. We were all in agreement that it must be chemical in nature. Unfortunately the chemical tests available to us would not enable us to determine the cause. It would be an understatement to say that students were outraged by what they had seen. By the third day after the incident we learned that a fish kill of any magnitude needs to be reported to the fish and game department. We also learned that City officials had identified who was responsible and what had happened. Apparently contractors had used solvents for a local project and washed the solvents into the storm drains unaware of where they would end up. We have received no additional information at this time. It had become apparent that our purpose needed to be extended beyond understanding the Arroyo habitat to include its preservation and restoration.     |  | | --- | | 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. | |