

Trout in the Classroom

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Why did we choose to participate in this project?



The decision was simple. We are all friends and were looking for something to do that we could all participate in outside of school.

1. We wanted something to do
 2. We are all interested in science
 3. We saw the older kids having a really fun time doing this project, and we really wanted to try it!
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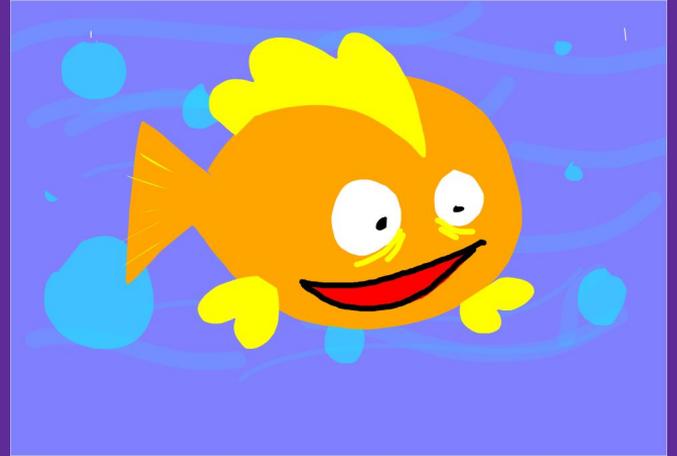
The Purpose

The purpose of this project is to raise trout and learn about the interesting lives of the fish!

Why you should participate:

Learning about fish is AWESOME! You get to work with your friends, and you can have a lot of fun! If you are looking for something fun to do, that's also educational, this project is for YOU!!!

The life cycle of trout



Spawning

Female Trout lay their eggs in “redds” which are like underwater nests, in the winter months when the water has the highest oxygen amounts

When the female trout starts moving around gravel to build her redd, she will start to lay her eggs. Then, male trout become attracted and eventually fertilizes her eggs

After the process, the female trout covers the eggs up with gravel

Egg hatching



Before the eggs hatch, they go through the “eyed ova” stage. This is when you can see the small trout inside the egg, in the shape of a dot

Most trout eggs hatch in February, and are incredibly small. The baby trout are called “alevins” and live in the gravel for around 14-30 days, feeding on their own egg sack for nutrients

Trout Fry

no , not potato fries!

Once the alevin eats its egg sack, it emerges from the gravel, and travels up towards the light and feeds on tiny insects in the water

During this stage, the fry is incredibly small (about the size of your fingernail!) and needs to be very careful where it swims, because it only can survive in slow shallow water

The fry needs a lot of food and nutrients, and hides in plants and rocks

Trout Parr

“Parr” means that the trout is less than one year old

Parr trout are bigger and stronger than Fry trout, so they are capable of swimming in deeper, faster moving water

During this stage Parr trout need to watch out for predators! Parr trout find good hiding spots in larger plants to protect themselves

Trout Parr have special markings on their sides that distinguish themselves from one another



Adult Trout

By the time trout reach the adult stage, they have territory they have established for themselves

Adult trout feed off of teeny tiny invertebrate (small organisms) that flow throughout the river they live in

Adult trout mainly live under rocks, tree roots, logs and other cool homes, to protect themselves from bird eating fish, and other predators

Why are trout important to the ecosystem?



- Brown trout has an ecological role in the biodiversity of rivers, lakes and streams. As brown trout play an important role in the food chains of these areas, it impacts small fish, mollusk and insect populations of its prey.



What Are We Doing?

Cool things like always.



- The first thing we are doing is testing the water. We record the Ph, nitrate, nitrite, and ammonia levels. This is to make sure everything is working properly and the trout are safe
 - We also feed the trout once they have consumed their egg sack.
 - We haven't yet but in the future we may have to perform water changes if certain levels become too high or low.
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