

The Mekong: What's happening in the river? Do we know?

Tuning in: What is the life in and on the Mekong?

1. Provide opportunities for discussion/ questions.

2. Inquiry table:

On the table have:

- Sand
- Water from the river
- Rocks
- Greenery from the edge of the river
- Greenery from the river:
- Mekong weed
- Shells
- Dried bugs
- Mud
- Dried fish....5/6 different sorts.

3. Each group to choose one object from table to look at like a scientist:

Describe what they are looking at using Scientific magnifier and dissector:

4. Discuss what is happening at the:

- bottom
- middle
- top of river?

5. What is **IN** the river?

Tuning in: What have you seen in the mighty Mekong river?

A. Divide a length of white sheeting into 4 sections lengthwise.

Leave the top section white.

B. In the bottom three sections of the sheeting using elastic bands tie to create circles or patterns as in water



Thread a bamboo stick through the top of the hanging so that it can be hung in the classroom. Using 3 bamboo sticks: Thread them through the sheeting to symbolize the bottom, middle and the top sections of the river.

Finding out:

A. Discuss the making of a river and the water cycle. Weather patterns, seasonal change and where the river originates and where it finishes and moves into the sea

B. Discuss the Mekong water and it's qualities and the river's length and power in relation to the water cycle. Who looks after it?

C. Talk about the dams and hydro electricity.

Ask some questions about what is happening to the Mekong?

Where?

Why?

D. Transportation: Travelling on the river:



E. What lives in the river?

Everything: Discuss food webs/chains and connections. What do fish and river creatures need to survive and thrive?

Then:

F. What makes a fish a fish?

List off the body parts of a fish: Chart these: Gills, tail, fins etc.,

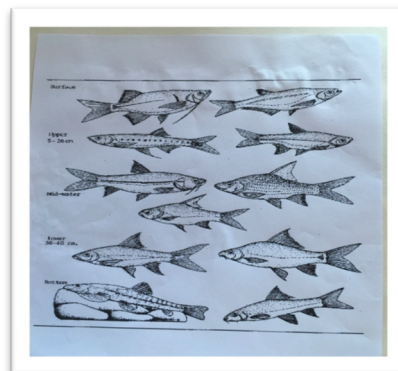
Sorting out:

1. Discuss the largest fish/ catfish/ stingrays etc., at the bottom of the Mekong... tell us some Mekong fish stories..

How big / how long and live where? Feed on?

What do they need to survive and flourish?

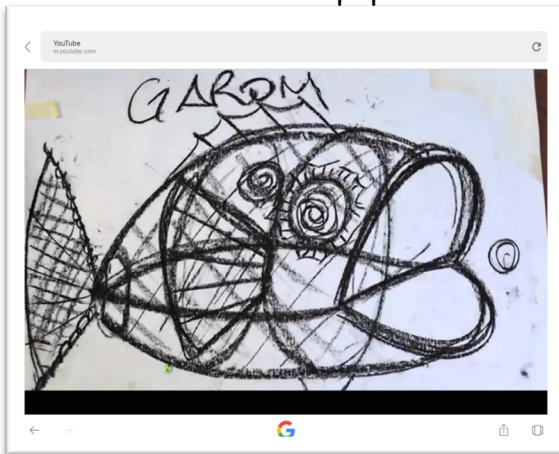
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Each group choose a photo of a large fish to make and create.

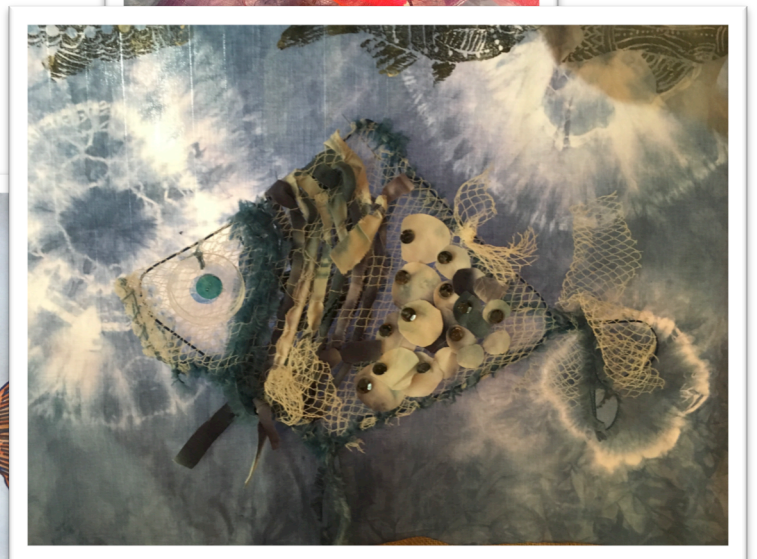
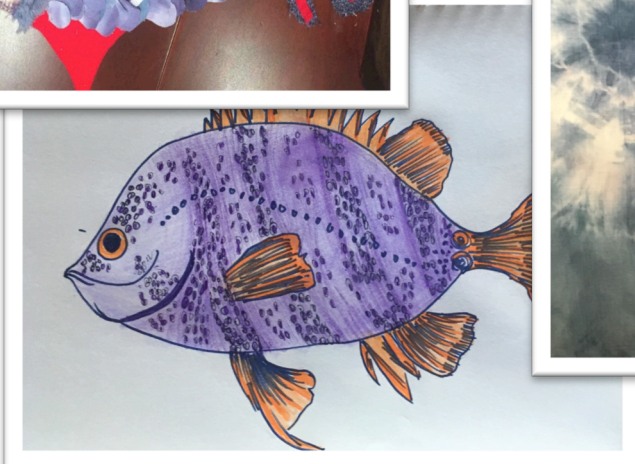
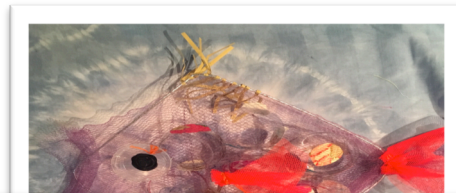


A. Draw fish on a sheet of butcher's paper first.
Make it large.



Then

B. Layout netting/ coat hangers/ wool/ sheeting / lids/ scraps/ string/ recycled products, to create into the fish shape and put it together with wire/ string/ rope



- C. Hang the large fish from the bamboo at the bottom section of the river mural.
- D. Create rocks and holes at the bottom of the river.

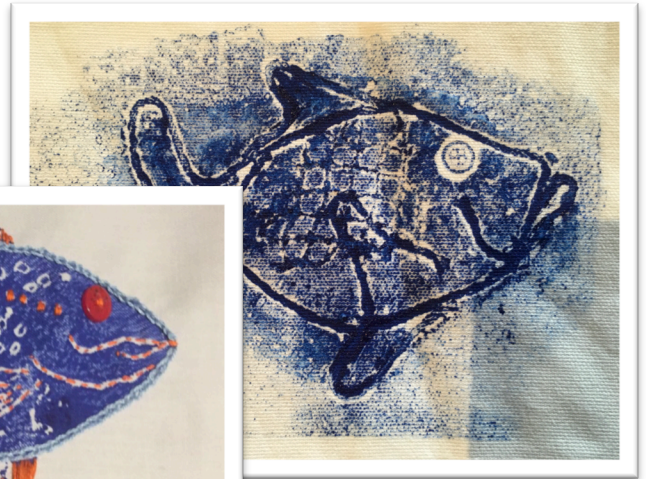
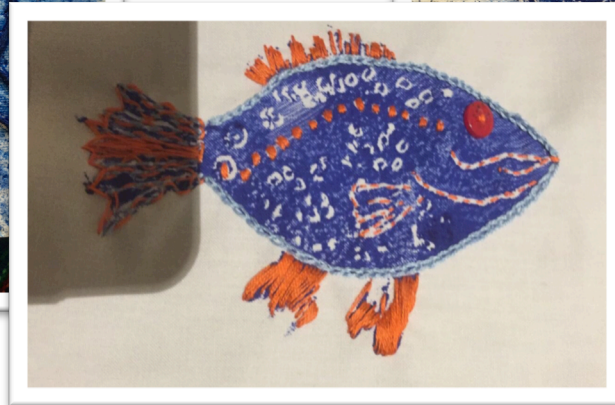
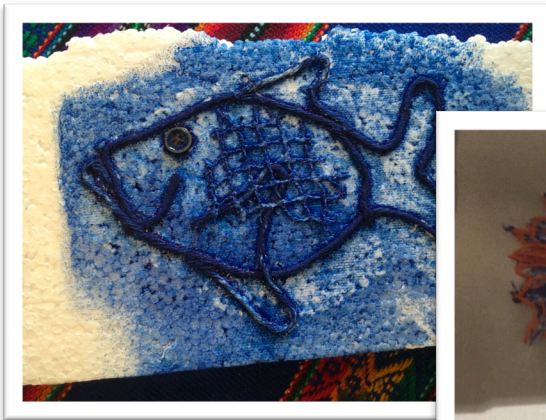
Then:

- 2. Look at the fish in the middle of the river. Use images again.
What are they?

Discuss: How endangered are they? What do they need to survive?

Create fish using at least 2 or 3 different printing techniques:

- A. Printing using foam cut outs.
- B. String printing



- A. Print these fish in the middle section of the Mekong mural.



- B. Print fish shapes onto pencil cases:

3: Make smaller or little fish/ river creatures that live at the top of the river using a variety of collage materials: Coloured card and string, little fish stuffed with paper and

stapled together, netting fish stuffed with material etc.,
How endangered are these little fish? What do they need to survive?
Hang these from the bamboo at the surface of the river mural.



Sorting out... going further:

4. Paint a mountain scene at the top of the river mural with coloured paint/ crayons:
sandbanks, trees and mountains, sky and sun etc



4. Then using plastic bottles and a variety of art and craft materials, tissue papers/ cellophane and crepe papers create dragon flies nymphs/ mosquitoes/ butterflies/ birds, more that live and feed on the surface of the river..... what do they need to survive?
What is their food web? What are they dependent upon?
What body parts do these creatures have?
Look at microscopes and insects and flies collected on the Inquiry table again: 'Looking like a scientist and creating like an artist'

Glue these or pin/ staple to the water surface at the top of the mural.



6. Exhibiting:

What do you know about the Mekong river now?
What new information have you gained?
Show each group's Mekong mural creation.



**How will you talk to your students about the Mighty Mekong now?
What new information will you tell them?**

