



Water & Energy Education Program
Field Trip 4 hours
Class Visit 75 minutes
5th Grade

5th Grade Field Trip & Class Visit

In Preparation for and during our Class Visit:

- Review with students the [5th Grade Vocabulary Lists \(English and Spanish\)](#)
- Watch the [Sonoma Water Salmon Life Cycle Video](#) (6:21)
- Watch the [Sonoma Water's Water Supply System Video](#) (5:05)
- On the day of the class visit, open the [5th Grade Google Slide Presentation](#) and have it ready for the Sonoma water educator to present

In Preparation for our Field Trip:

- Send directions to chaperones [Water Education Center – Important Detour directions 2026](#)
- Review and **Sign** the [Teacher Checklist, Acknowledgement and Release](#)
- Distribute and collect signed [Chaperone Letter, Acknowledgement and Release](#) ([Spanish version](#))
- Distribute and collect signed [Parent Acknowledgement and Release](#) for Students ([Spanish version](#))
- Important **Day of the Field Trip Reminders** (coming soon)
- After the class visit watch the [What to Expect on the 5th Grade field trip video](#) (2:10)
- After the field trip complete the [Post-field trip teacher evaluation form](#)

Lesson Summary

The 5th-grade Russian River field trip is located at the Sonoma Water Education Center ([9703 Wohler Road](#)). The fieldtrip is approximately 4 hours with students arriving at 9:30 AM and departing at 1:30 PM. Generally, two classes share a bus. Buses are scheduled and paid for by Sonoma Water. Bus pick up generally happens by 9:00 AM and drop off occurs between 2:00- 2:30 PM. Each class is divided into two groups; each group is 12 to 15 students led by 1 Sonoma Water Educator. Sonoma Water recommends approximately one chaperone per 7-10 students. Every field trip is preceded by a 1 hour and 15-minute class visit for each class to prepare the students for the content covered on the fieldtrip, typically 1 week in advance.

Essential Question:

- How does water connect us all?



Learning Objectives:

On the field trip, students will:

- Tour a collector well and see the source of their drinking water.
- Collect and perform water quality tests along the Russian River.
- Use microscopes to identify aquatic macro-invertebrates.
- Explore the Russian River ecosystem and riparian zone.

During the classroom lesson, students will learn:

- How their drinking water is naturally filtered and delivered to their homes.
- How human activities can impact water quality.
- How to perform water quality tests and analyze results.

Content areas for the Class Visit:

- Water System movement activity
- Build a creek model
- Water quality testing lesson

Content Areas for 5th Grade Fieldtrip:

- Water Quality testing at the Russian River
Test the temperature, pH, and turbidity of the river- test kits assembled prior to field trip and transported by educators. We gather and analyze the water quality data.
- Aquatic Macroinvertebrate Exploration (AMI)
Using microscopes, we take a close look at the aquatic macroinvertebrates from the river in our indoor lab. Students help identify the AMI from the river.
- Water System- Collector Well tour
Tour inside one of our collector wells and explore how water is pumped to our communities.
- Russian River Ecosystem Exploration (RREE)
Explore the riparian habitat along the Russian River.
Teach and observe how the biosphere (plants and animals) interacts with the hydrosphere and each other.
- Rubber Dam, Fish Ladder & Viewing Gallery, and River Diversion System
Seasonally, we install a rubber dam in the river (generally May through December). When the rubber dam is put up, a fish ladder allows for fish passage around the dam.
The Fish Viewing Gallery enables us to periodically see fish migrating upstream.
Mirabel water system - River Diversion Structure (RDS) and pond systems.

Materials Provided by Sonoma Water:

- Name tags and journals are handed out at the class visit
- Reusable water bottles (distributed back at school after the field trip)
- [Sonoma Water Russian River Field Journal](#) provided during the class visit

Additional Resources to Extend Learning:

- [Salmon Life Cycle Song](#) (theFrizzlives) 3:40
- [Water Quality for Salmon Sonoma Water PDF](#)
- [An Incredible Journey: NOAA Salmon Stewardship](#) (NOAA)
- [Nature Journaling – John Muir Laws](#)
- [Stroud Water Research Center](#)

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