2nd Grade Watershed Field Trip

Summary: This outdoor field trip focuses on our local watershed, the Humboldt River Basin. Students begin by becoming audience members of an entertaining game show that provides a working definition and demonstration of a watershed. Classes then disperse to their first 25 minute station. Each station engages multiple learning styles and encourages students to think critically about their local environment. Classes then rotate through all stations and conclude in a central area to discuss what was learned.

Goal: To increase students' knowledge of the Humboldt River Basin Watershed by exploring how water moves, our influences on it, and how water interacts with the natural world.

Nevada State Standards:

Scientific Inquiry

- **N2A** Students understand that science is an active process of systematically examining the natural world.
  - N.2.A.1 Students know how to make observations and give descriptions using words, numbers, and drawings.
  - N.2.A.3 Students know observable patterns can be used to predict future events or sort items.

Structure of Life

- **L2B** Students understand that living things have identifiable characteristics
  - L.2.B.1 Students use their senses to collect data and the environment.

Organisms and their Environment

- **L2C** Students understand that living things live in different places.
  - L.2.C.1 Students explain that plants and animals need certain resources for energy and growth.
  - L.2.C.2 Students know habitat includes food, water, shelter, and space.

Atmospheric Processes and the Water Cycle

- **E2A** Students understand that changes in weather often involve water changing from one state to another.
  - E.2.A.2 Students give an example of liquid water on Earth (rain, rivers, lakes, or oceans).
  - E.2.A.3 Students know weather changes from day to day and seasonally.

Common Core Standards:

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

- **ELA - Literacy.W.2.8** Recall information from experience or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

- **ELA-Literacy.RL.2.7** Use information gained from the illustrations and words in a print or digital text to demonstrate understanding of its characters, setting, or plot.

Next Generation Science Standards:

2-LS2 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

- **2-LS2-1** Plan and conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight and water to grow.

2-ESS2 Earth's Systems

- **2-ESS2-2** Develop a model to represent the shapes and kinds of land and bodies of water in an area.

Activity Stations:

Introduction: Watershed Plink-O! – 15 minutes
This introduction brings the concept of a watershed to life for all students in a game show atmosphere. Students learn what a watershed is, identify a low and a high point in their surrounding watershed, and grasp the idea we all live in a watershed.

Sum of its Parts – 25 minutes
Students use creative thinking to identify how humans and animals use the Humboldt River and impacts imposed on those who live downstream.

Watershed Habitats – 25 minutes
Students learn how plants/animals use water in a watershed and how changes to the watershed affect their habitats

Water on the Move – 25 minutes
Students connect the movement of water in the water cycle to how water moves in a watershed.

Seeing Watersheds – 25 minutes
Students create a human model of a watershed to understand tributaries and how water moves from high to low points.