



Prize Winner

Science Writing

Year R-2

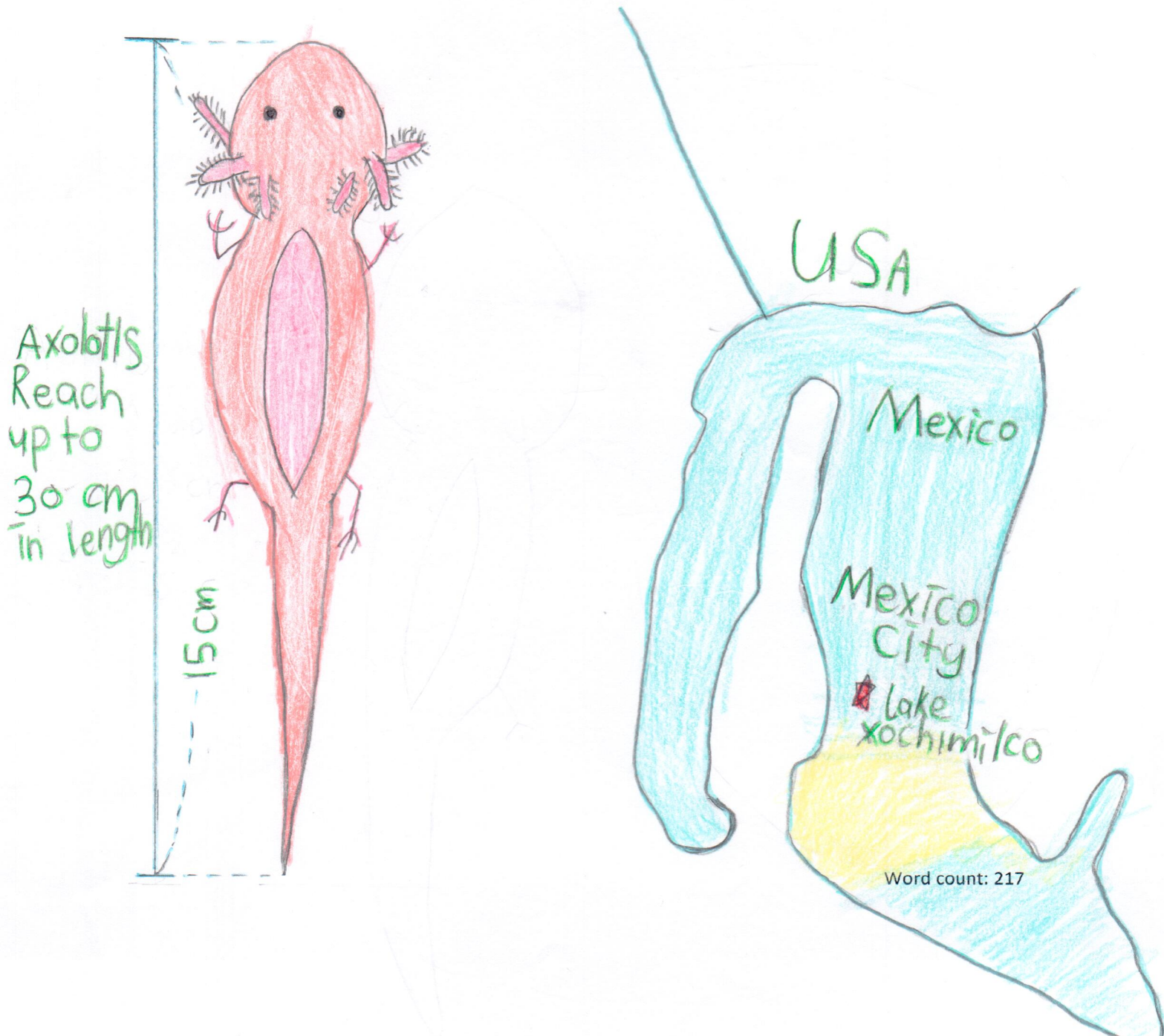
Edward Liu

St Andrew's School

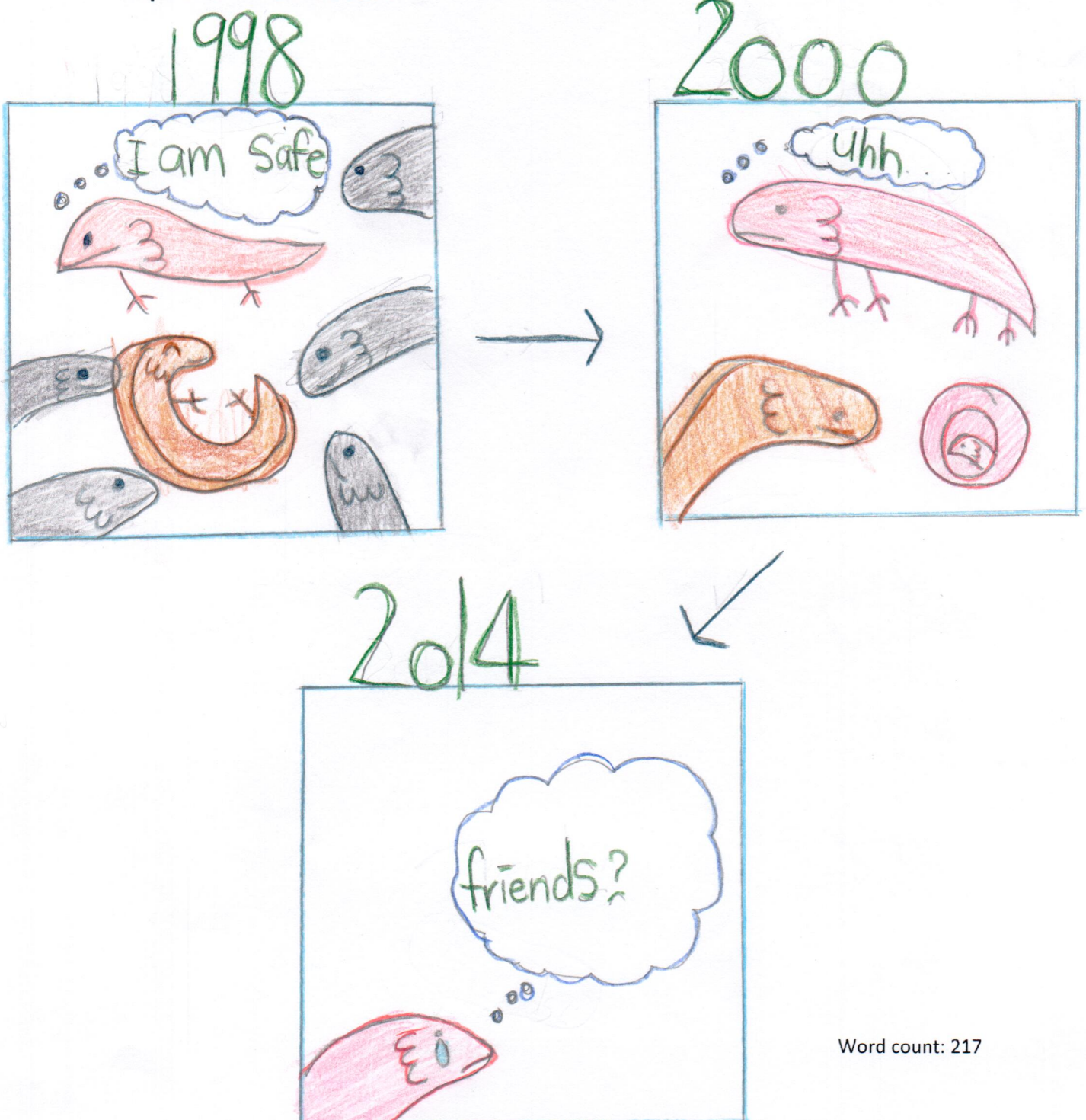


Endangered Species Recovery: Axolotl

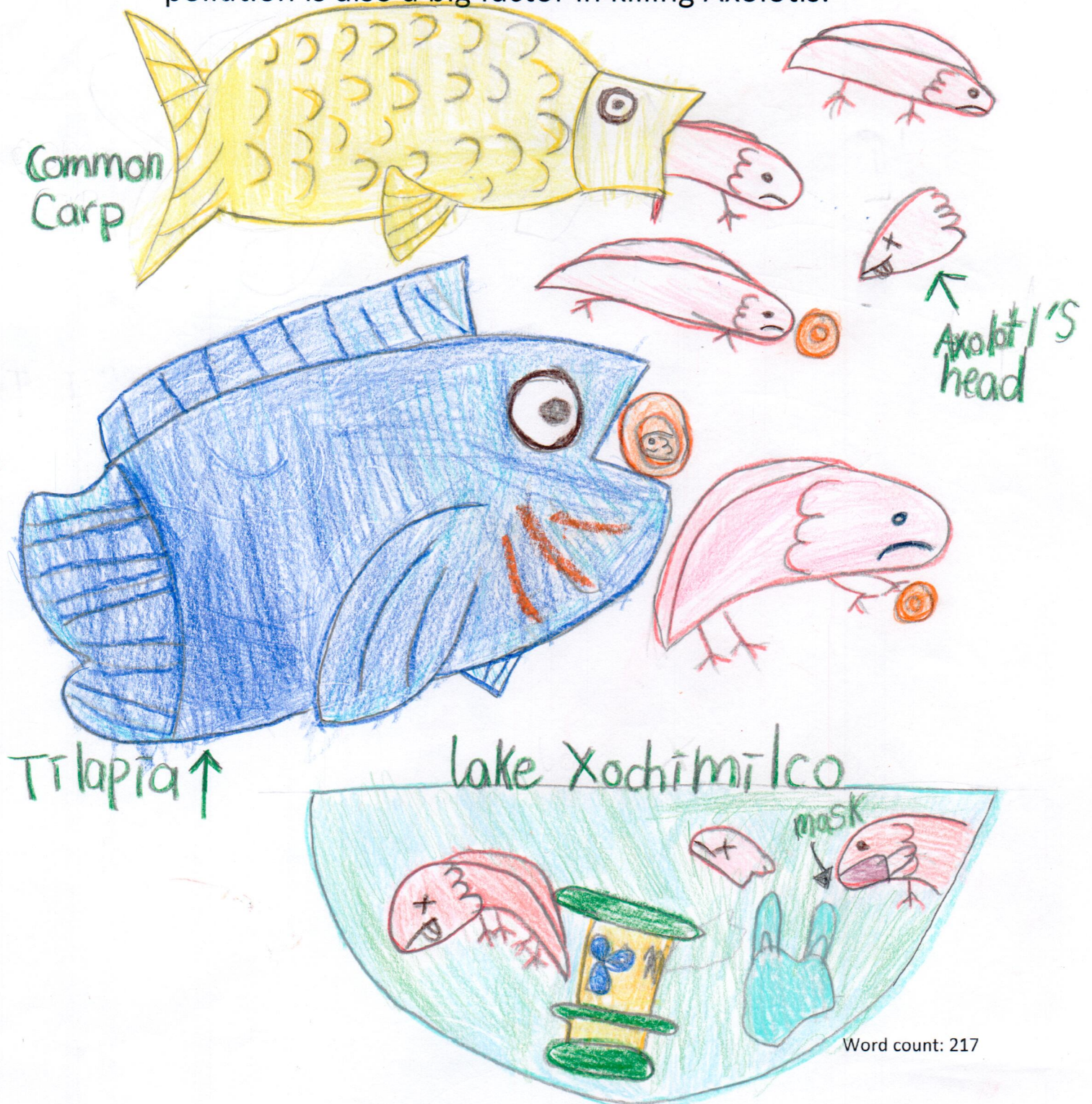
Axolotls are a type of amphibian, and belong to the salamander family, they are only found naturally in Lake Xochimilco, Mexico. Currently, Axolotls are critically endangered in the wild, but commonly bred in laboratories, aquariums and pet trade.



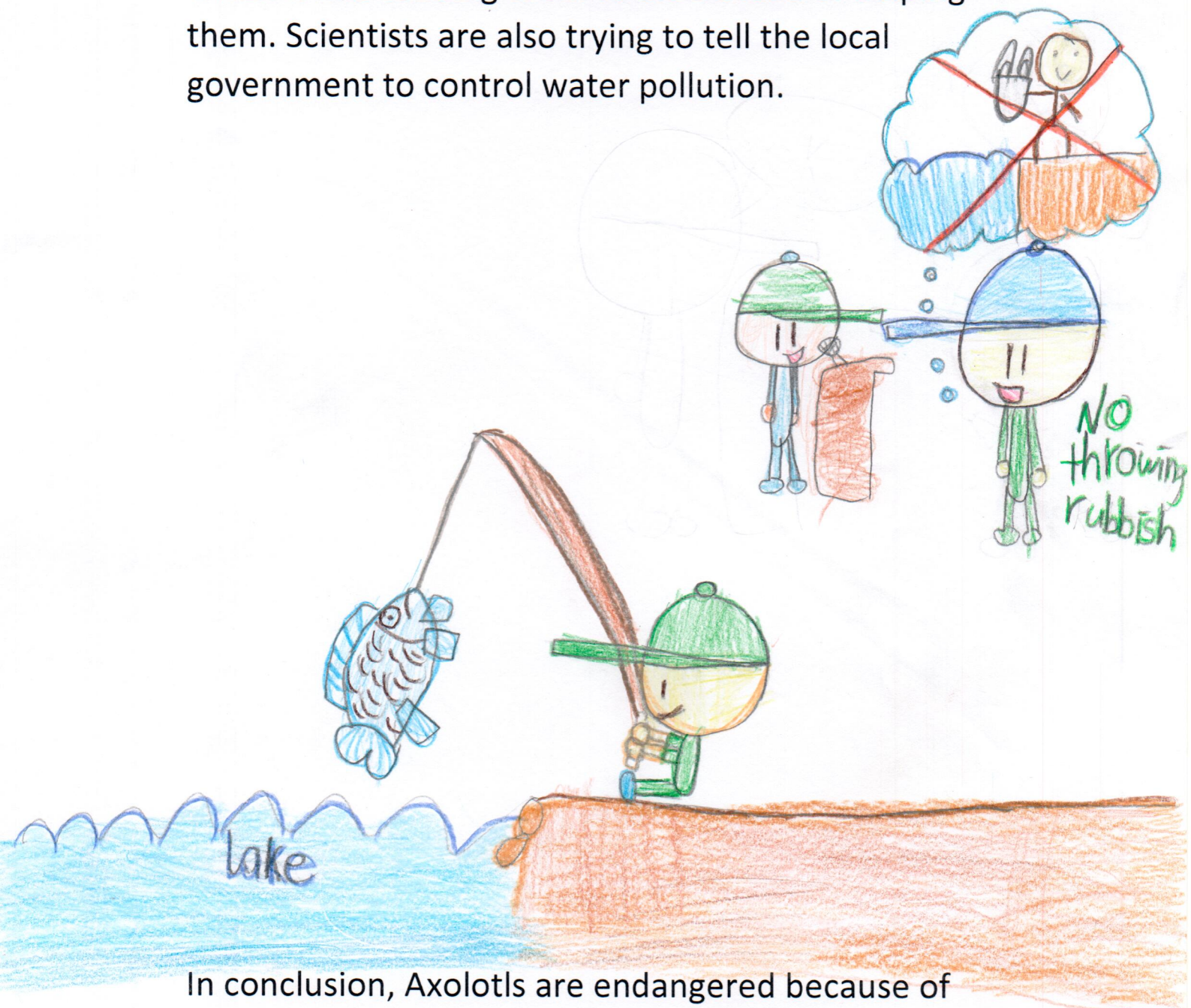
In 1998 the first proper study about Axolotls by Mexican scientists discovered that there were 6000 axolotls per square kilometer in Lake Xochimilco. In the year 2000, there was a dramatic fall in the number of Axolotls, there were only 1000 Axolotls per square kilometer. In 2014 there were only 35 Axolotls per square kilometer.



Axolotls are critically endangered because of non-native invasive fish introduced in the 1970s and 80s, these fish are known as the common carp and Tilapia. Discharging human waste such as heavy metals and plastics into lake Xochimilco causing severe water pollution is also a big factor in killing Axolotls.



Scientists around Mexico are trying to re-introduce Axolotls into Lake Xochimilco. They are removing the invasive fish first, or else if they just release them, they will immediately get eaten by common carp and tilapia, which is like sending them to die instead of helping them. Scientists are also trying to tell the local government to control water pollution.



In conclusion, Axolotls are endangered because of humans but scientists are trying to fix those mistakes.

Acknowledgment:

I would like to thank my aunty for buying me an Axolotl for last year's Christmas present and I really appreciate that gift and I named it Axi. I would also like to thank my mum for setting up this document and helping me with the project.



Photo of my Axi

Reference:

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