

# The Environmental Restoration Project

– Through Environmental Education  
(Hands-on Activities in Nature) -

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Saitama Municipal Shibiraki Elementary School

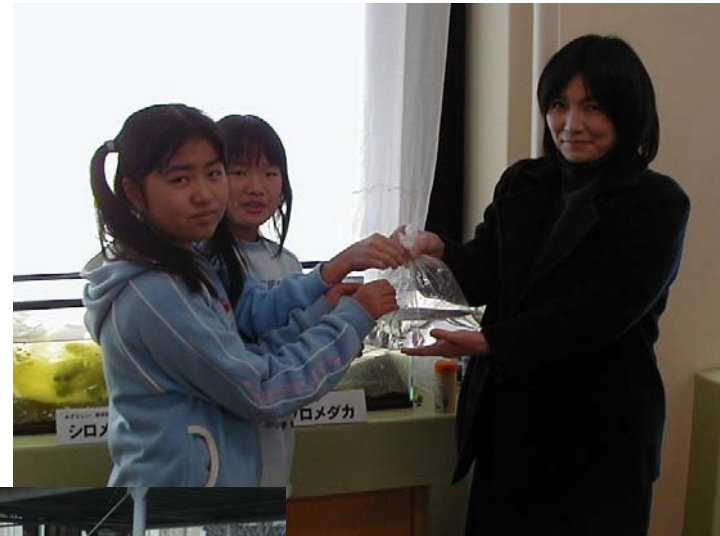
# What is the Environmental Restoration Project?

- Wild Kanto dandelions are growing in the school's environs.
- In this neighborhood, primroses used to bloom and a large number of Japanese rice fish used to swim in the swamp.



**This project aims at the resurgence of those species in danger of extinction through “Life Environment Studies” and “Periods for Integrated Study” classes.**

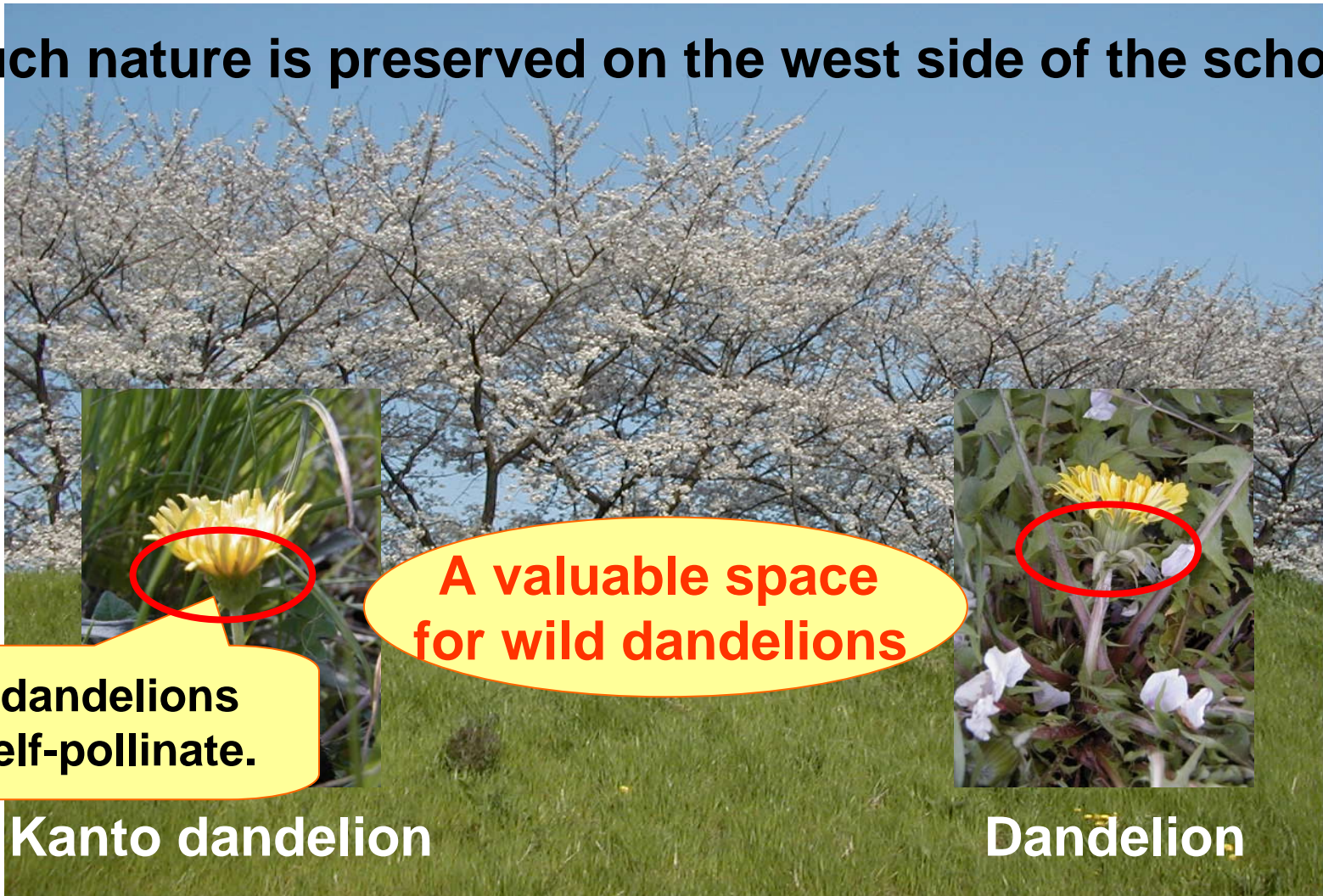
# With the “School Support Volunteers”





# 6th Grade: Let's preserve and grow Kanto dandelions.

Much nature is preserved on the west side of the school.



A valuable space for wild dandelions

Kanto dandelions don't self-pollinate.

Kanto dandelion

Dandelion

# We would like to protect Kanto dandelions!

- From a distribution survey we found that:
  - (western) dandelions have increased in number.
  - hybrid dandelions between Kanto and western dandelions have also increased in number.
  - in developed areas, most of the dandelions are of the western type.





# Encounter with a volunteers' group “Friends of Kanto Dandelions”

- We learned about their survey and preservation activities in the Metropolitan Hikarigaoka Park.
- We have heard many stories from them.



# What can we do?

- Let's make the characteristics and beauty of Kanto dandelions known to many people.



- Let's grow them in the school yard.





# What does it mean to preserve Kanto dandelions?

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- It doesn't mean that we only have to increase the number of Kanto dandelions.
- It is ideal to grow them in an environment where many kinds of plants and flowers are growing.
- It is very important to preserve the environment in the region.



**With the residents' cooperation**



**Transplanted dandelions  
in the flowerbed along  
the New Omiya Bypass**



# 5th Grade: Let's restore Japanese rice fish to the swamps in the neighborhood.

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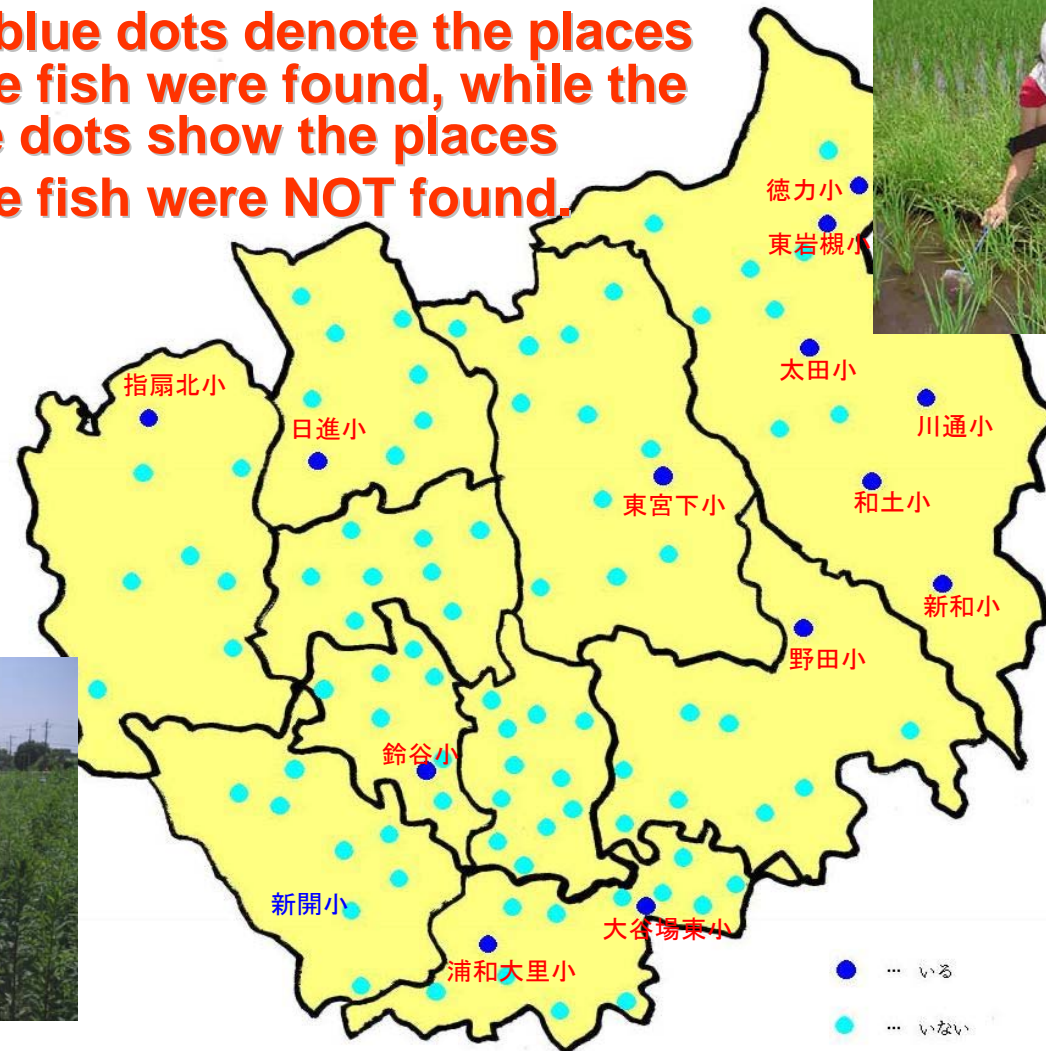
- The school asked people in the community to talk about the environment in the old times.
- In spite of rich natural resources in the neighborhood,



**Why are there so few Japanese rice fish?**

# Survey of the places where Japanese rice fish were found.

The light blue dots denote the places where rice fish were found, while the navy blue dots show the places where rice fish were NOT found.



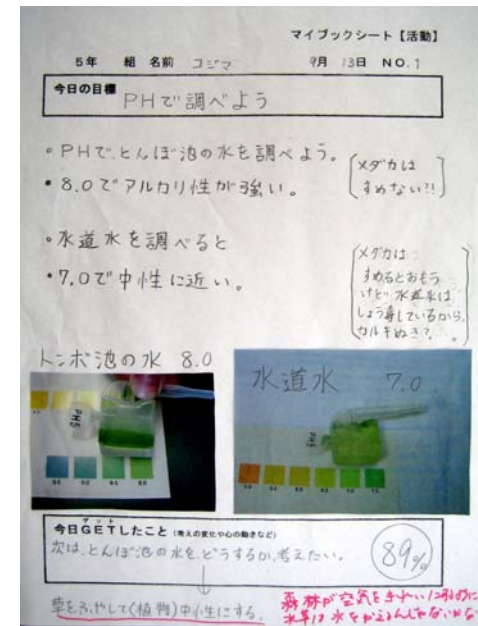


# Let's restore Japanese rice fish population.

- Growing and breeding rice fish in the PET bottles



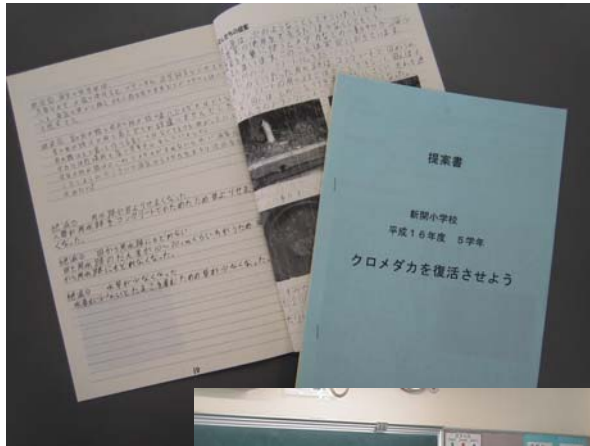
- Water quality survey and observation



- Releasing rice fish into the school biotope

# Appeal to students and residents

- We made a proposal.



- We tried various ways of breeding.



- Residents in the community adopted rice fish and became their foster parents.



# In conclusion:

- **We are very happy that more and more residents in the community are cooperating with our effort.**
- **We wish to continue to learn more about nature by accumulating our ideas in the form of portfolio.**
- **We wish to continue to create a better environment without forgetting the importance of nature.**
- **We wish to actively participate in the preservation of wild life in cooperation with the community people.**

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