



Western Washington University  
Western CEDAR

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Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2022 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference  
(Online)

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Apr 27th, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

## Bringing Virtual Reality to the Classroom: Friends of the San Juans Immersive Education Program

Jess Newley

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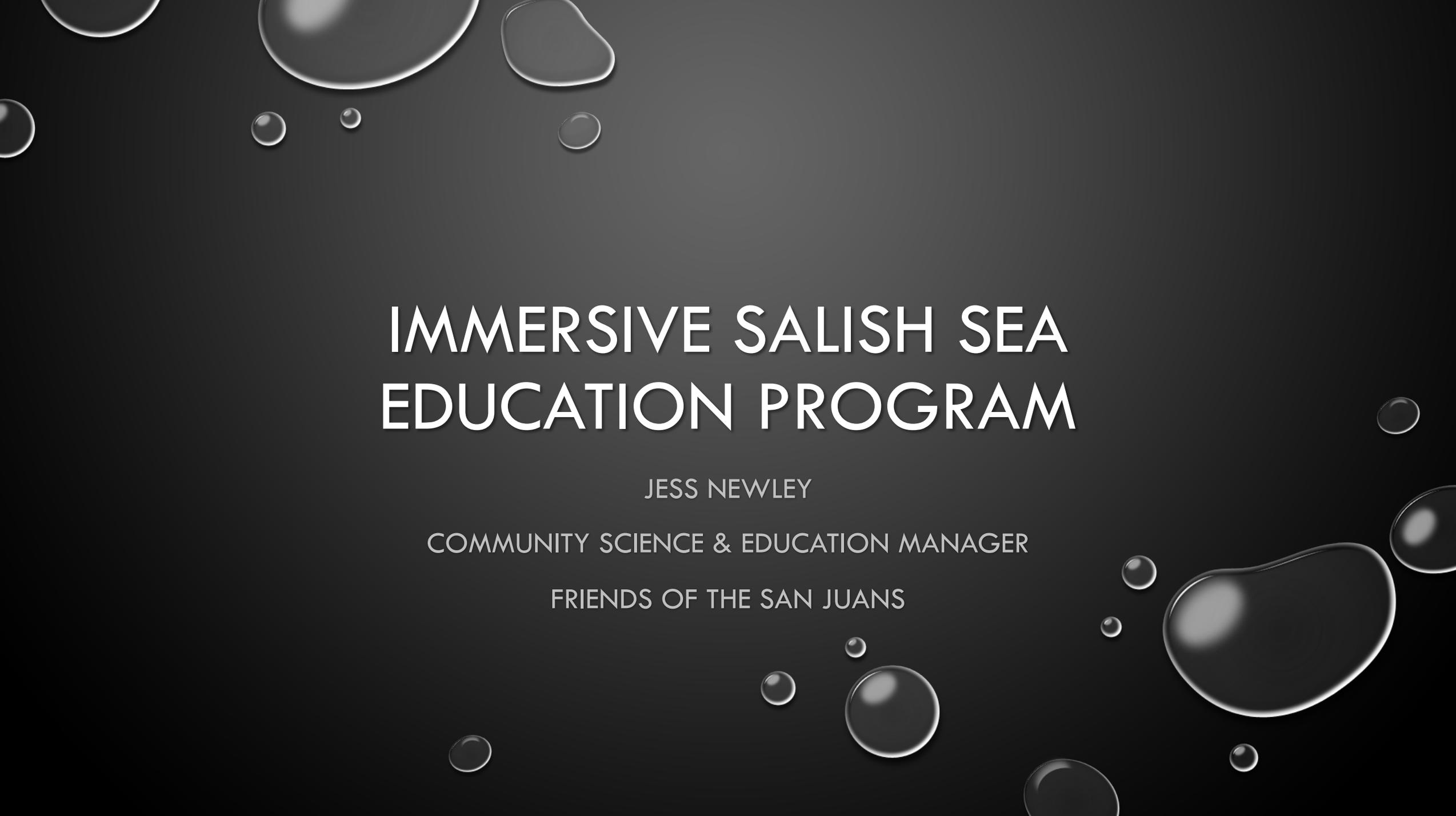


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Newley, Jess, "Bringing Virtual Reality to the Classroom: Friends of the San Juans Immersive Education Program" (2022). *Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference*. 248.  
<https://cedar.wwu.edu/ssec/2022ssec/allsessions/248>

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The background of the slide is a dark, charcoal grey color. It is decorated with numerous water droplets of various sizes, some large and prominent, others small and scattered. The droplets have a realistic, glossy appearance with highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional look. They are distributed across the entire frame, with a higher concentration in the upper and lower portions.

# IMMERSIVE SALISH SEA EDUCATION PROGRAM

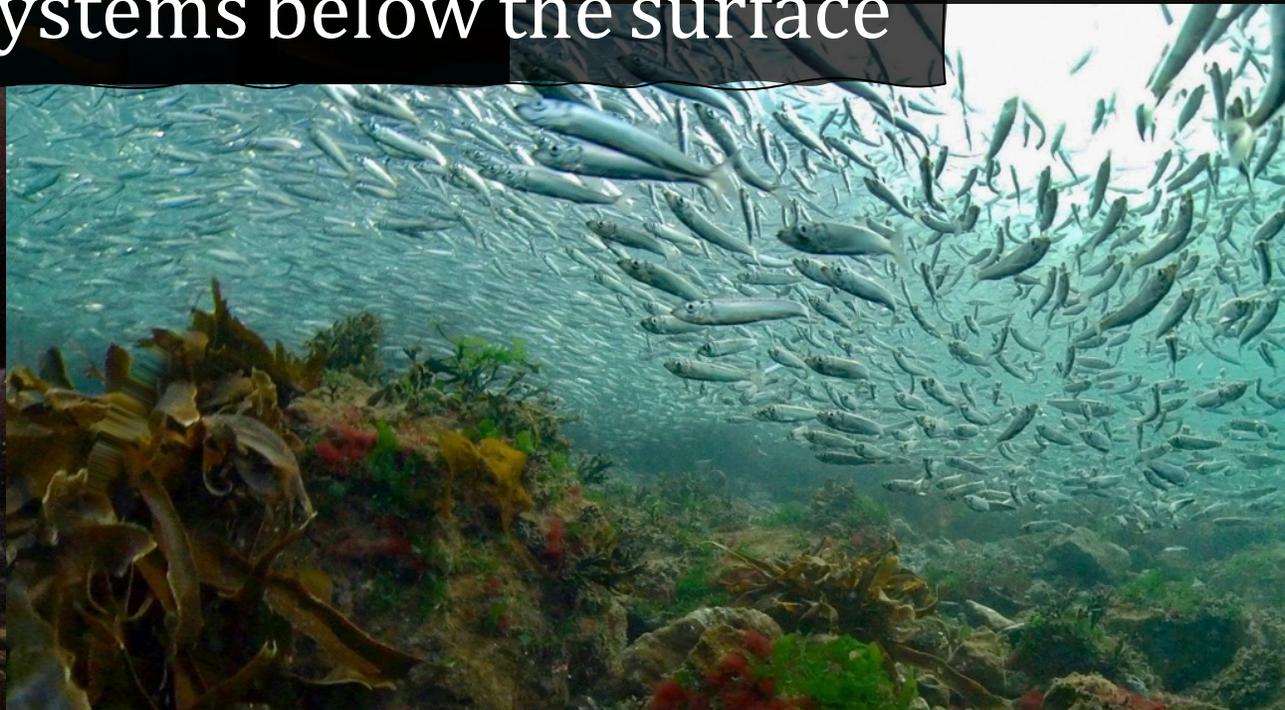
JESS NEWLEY

COMMUNITY SCIENCE & EDUCATION MANAGER

FRIENDS OF THE SAN JUANS

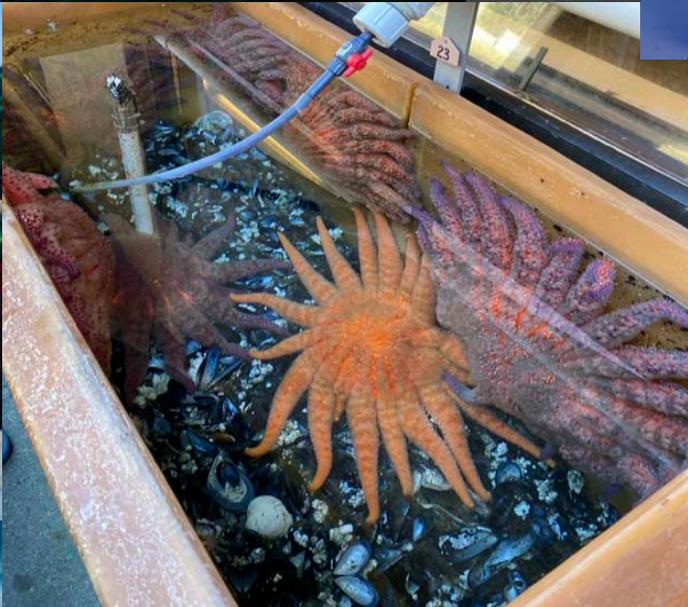


Our wild and dynamic systems below the surface

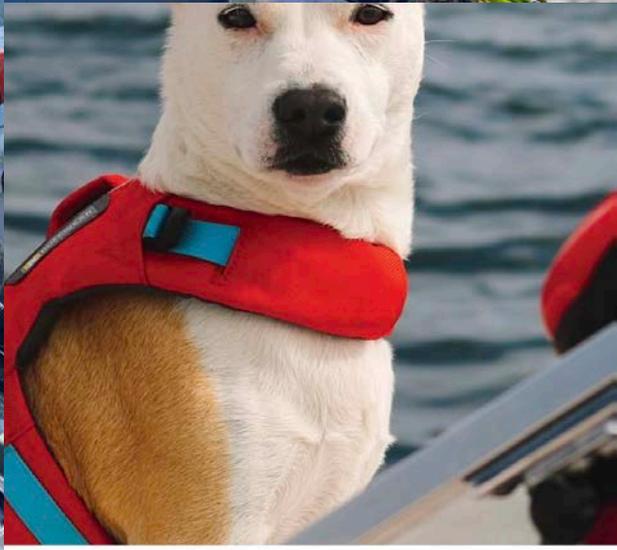




And the scientists working to save them



Friends San Juans



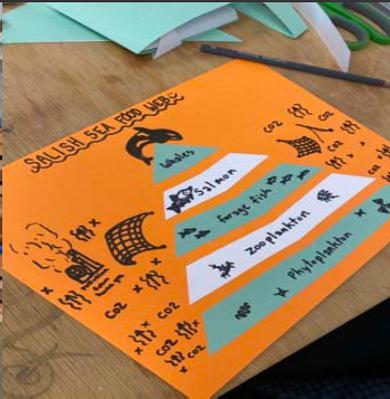
# IMMERSIVE EDUCATION COMPONENTS

STORYTELLING

MARINE  
FOOD WEB

VR  
EXPERIENCE

COMMUNITY  
ACTION  
PROJECT





SCAN ME



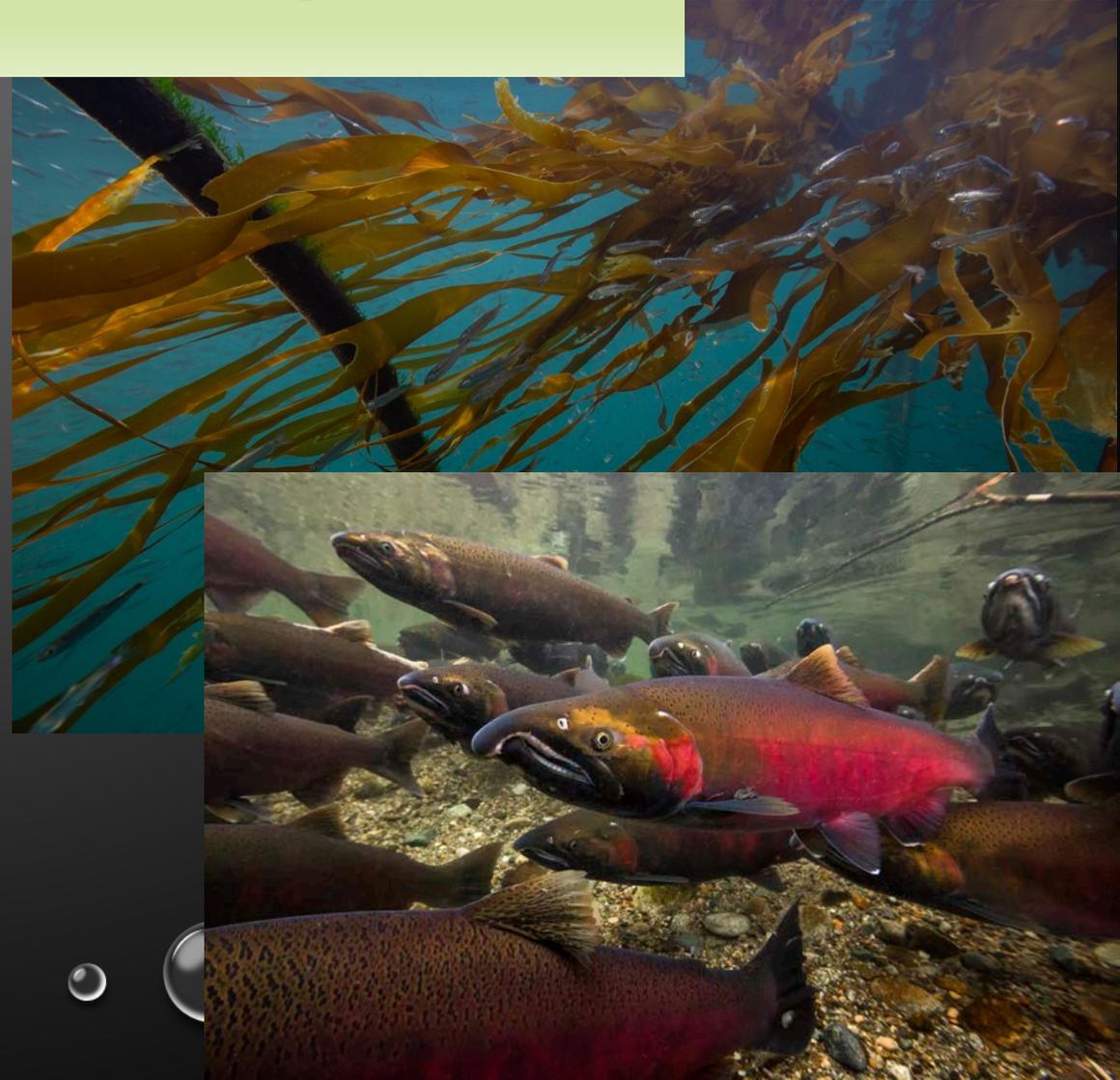
Shorelines and Salmon: Friends of the San Juans Immersive Educa... :

Friends of the San Juans · 298 views · 1 week ago

# SHORELINES AND SALMON – IMMERSIVE ED VIDEO

## GOALS:

- TO DEEPEN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLEXITY OF OUR MARINE SHORELINES AND THEIR CONNECTION WITH FORAGE FISH, SALMON, ORCAS AND HUMANS.
- AWE AND INSPIRE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BECOME STEWARDS OF THEIR SHORELINES WHILE BEING EXPOSED TO CAREERS IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CONSERVATION.





## 360 on YouTube

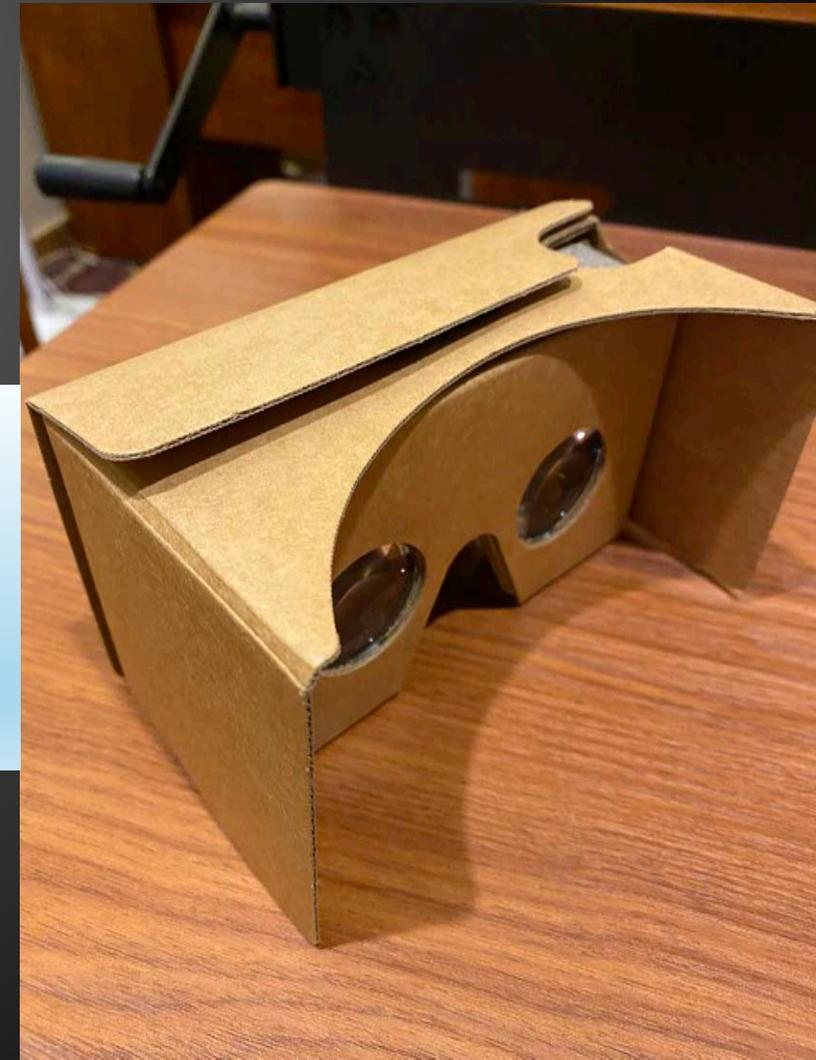
- cell phone
- tablet
- computer screen

## Google Cardboard Headsets

- Step up into VR
- Need cell phone
- \$10-\$15
- STEM
- Covid Friendly

## Oculus Quest 2

- or others!
- pre loaded w/ video
- Full immersive experience





VOTE!  
To the  
FUTURE  
FOR  
ALL PEOPLE

EXIT

GROY

# VIRTUAL REALITY TECHNOLOGY + EDUCATION

- TECH IS BECOMING MORE AFFORDABLE TO CONSUMERS
- PANDEMIC HAS SKYROCKETED THE USE OF VR
- EXPERIENTIAL EDUCATION TOOL
  - IMPRINTS ON MIND + HEART = RETENTION!
  - RELEVANCY
  - EXPOSURE
  - TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES



# BARRIERS

- HIGH TECH, HARD TO TRAIN OTHERS TO ADMINISTER
- BEACHES AND VR GEAR =  =
- CARDBOARD IS A GREAT SOLUTION TO EXPANSION
  - BUT REQUIRES CELL PHONES + INTERNET



# ACCESSIBILITY

- GOING UNDERWATER IS PRIVILEGE!
  - GEAR
  - SAFETY
  - COSTS
  - TIME
- ALL STUDENTS GET TO EXPERIENCE IT EASILY AND SAFELY
- HITS MANY DIFFERENT LEARNING STYLES
- ENGAGES STUDENTS NEW WAY
- FUN!



“WOW, I ACTUALLY CARE NOW!”  
-8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE STUDENT FROM COLORADO



# PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

- MORE MODULES!
  - ORCA RESEARCH
  - SEA STARS AT FRIDAY HARBOR LABS
  - OTHERS?
- EXPANSION TO SALISH SEA REGION
- PARTNERSHIPS WITH UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES
- TEACHER TRAININGS
- CREATE CURRICULUM PACKAGE



THANK YOU!

Questions?

Ideas?

Feedback?

Please email [jess@sanjuans.org](mailto:jess@sanjuans.org) !

