



GETTING TO KNOW PENNSYLVANIA'S FISHES

Students will classify pond organisms into appropriate pond habitats and then draw it on a pond diagram.

Grade Level: Third grade and higher

Time: One hour

Goals/Objectives:

- Students will understand the difference between cold, cool, and warm water temperature for a fish's habitat.
- Students will be able to identify at least ten Pennsylvania fish.
- Students will know at least one fact about each of the fish they identify.

Setting: Indoors

Materials:

- Picture cards of at least 10 Pennsylvania fishes
(Available on PA Fish and Boat Commission website)
- Information Sheet with facts about fish
- What's Your Fish IQ? Worksheet
(Available on PA Fish and Boat Commission website)
- Pencil

PA Environment and Ecology Standards:

4.1.1 Watersheds and Wetlands

C. Identify living things found in water environments

Method

1. In advance, download images from the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#) of the 10 Pennsylvania fish listed on the [information sheet](#). Use the images to create picture cards and a worksheet. The worksheet contains the 10 Pennsylvania fish pictures with blank lines next to each picture where the students will fill in information about the fish. Discuss the three different habitats for fishes in Pennsylvania waters (cold: less than 70 degrees to grow and reproduce; cool: between 65 and 75 degrees to grow and reproduce; warm: higher than 75 degrees to grow and reproduce).
2. Show pictures of the 10 fishes chosen to the class (at least one from each kind of habitat) and discuss how to identify the different fishes.
3. Allow students time to work in small groups and share the different pictures to practice identifying them and going over the information about each fish.
4. Pass out a worksheet with the 10 Pennsylvania fishes and students label each one and tell what kind of habitat it lives in and one more fact about the fish.

Evaluation

The student should be able to correctly identify 8 of the 10 fishes and give accurate information about the habitat and a fact about each one.

References

Steiner, Linda. *Pennsylvania Fishes* (available from the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#))

Pond and Stream Study Guide (available from the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#))

Pennsylvania Fishes Identification Guide (available from the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#))

What's Your Fish IQ? (available from the [Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission](#))

