

Crayfish Ecology

Synopsis

3rd—6th, upper

** Please have your students wear their own rubber boots if possible. If not, we have rubber boots to share with children and adults.



MN Academic Standards

supported during HNC program. More standards can be supported with pre- and post lesson activities.

Science

- 3.1.1.1.1 Support claims with evidence
- 3.1.1.2.2 Science is replicable
- 3.1.1.2.3 Record observations
- 3.1.1.2.4 Evidence based explanation
- 3.1.3.4.1 Science tools
- 3.4.1.1.1 Growth, survive, reproduce
- 3.4.1.1.2 Observable characteristics
- 3.4.3.2.1 Inherited / acquired traits
- 4.2.1.1.1 Measure with science tools
- 5.1.1.1.1 Science
- 5.1.1.1.2 Science is replicable
- 5.1.1.1.3 Observations
- 5.1.1.2.2 Science investigation
- 5.1.1.2.3 Evaluate experiment fairness
- 5.1.3.4.1 Data collection
- 5.4.1.1.1 Plant and animal structures
- 5.4.2.1.1 MN natural systems
- 5.4.2.1.1 Parts of a system
- 5.4.2.1.2 Changes to a system
- 6.1.3.4.1 Science investigation

Math:

- 3.3.2.1 Use half units
- 3.3.2.3 Measure distances
- 3.3.3.4 Take temperature F or C

Language Arts

- 3.8.3.3, 4.8.1.1 C, D, 5.8.1.1 C, D, 6.9.1.1 C, D

Goals & Objectives

This program will:

- Introduce crayfish as a unique species
- Provide opportunities for catching, observing and stewardship of live animals
- Involve students in authentic data collection

Students will be able to:

- Measure and determine the sex of crayfish
- Identify macroinvertebrates using observational skills and field guides/i.d. sheets
- Record accurate data

Activities

In the classroom:

- Discuss what makes a crayfish unique, what they eat, where they live, and how they go about daily life.
- Discuss how to know the sex of a crayfish and how to record information on our data sheets.

In the field:

- Visit Tischer Creek or a pond in Hartley Park. Use buckets, dip nets, and i.d. sheets to figure out what is living in the stream or pond.
- Use measuring tapes and i.d. sheets to measure and determine sex of crayfish.

Bad Weather Alternatives:

- Use microscopes and magnifying glasses to observe macroinvertebrates from the stream or pond. (HNC educators will catch critters before your arrival).
- Play games that teach students about macroinvertebrates roles in the environment.

Authenticity

Students measure and determine the sex of crayfish to contribute data to the HNC Crayfish Database.