

Fishy Who's Who

Study Units

Aquatic Life

Supplemental Information

Most students will be amazed to learn the many different fish found in their area, whether their “area” is the state of Iowa or a local lake. *Iowa Fish ID Guide* and the IDNR Fisheries Bureau home page are excellent resources for information about fish species found in Iowa. (See the “Teacher Aids” and “Additional Materials” sections.) County conservation board naturalists, members of local fishing clubs, and DNR fisheries biologists also can be sources of information about local fish.

Teaching Suggestions

Complete the activity, “[Fashion a Fish](#)” as an introduction to this activity. *Younger students:* Discuss some common Iowa fish and their habitats. *Older students:* You may do this activity as a short unit on awareness or expand it into a major project, depending largely on the size of the “area” you choose to explore. Some variations are:

1. Use a depth map ([download from the DNR website](#)) of a public lake and locate the parts of the lake where different fish might live.
2. Use a plat book or topographical map to construct a map of different bodies of water in your township or county and decide what fish would be found in each.
3. Expand #2 to include major waters in Iowa or even the Midwest.

Evaluation

Have students share their biographies with the class or in small groups. Check for knowledge about kinds of fish, their habitat affiliation, or other knowledge / concepts included in the development of the fish biographies.

Teacher Aids

- Brochure: *Iowa Fish ID Guide* (Fill out the contact us form on the [Iowa DNR website](#) and request a brochure.)
- Posters: Aquatic Life; Life in a Stream (Contact the [Iowa WILD office](#) if you do not have)

Additional Materials

- *Fish Iowa!* Basic Spincasting Module. 2014. Des Moines: Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Contact [Barb Gigar](#) for training. (Unit on fish ID as well as posters, audio-visual programs, fish ID card game, and coloring books)
- Iowa Department of Natural Resources: [Iowa Fish Species](#)
- Iowa DNR [Fisheries Bureau homepage](#)

