

“My Favourite Fish” lesson plan

Duration: 20-30 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will be introduced to five different fish species found in the Ottawa area
- Identify the physical characteristics of various plants and animals, including humans, and explain how these characteristics help the plants and animals meet their basic needs
- Students will illustrate and write about local fish species

Background:

What does it mean to be a fish? Fish have many unique features that help them live underwater. By recognizing and illustrating the appearance of fish, students will understand what makes a fish a fish. This activity will help students learn about and build personal connections with fish species in the Ottawa area through drawing and writing.

Materials:

- Plush fish species: Walleye, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Brook Trout, Sunfish all with laminated cute! labels attached to a fin
- One “My Favourite Fish” handout per student
- One writing utensil per student (pencil recommended)
- Colouring utensils

Procedure:

1. Using the plush fish, ask the students what makes a fish a fish. How do these fish look different from people? Discuss the importance of these features and how they help fish survive. For example, fish have gills that they need to breathe underwater whereas humans have lungs to breathe air. They also have a tail, scales, and fins. How do these features differ between the fish? Do humans share any common features with fish (eyes, mouth)? Why might these features be important for both humans and fish? Be sure to include all five plush fish species (and their names!) in your discussion.
2. Give each student a “My Favourite Fish” handout. Have students draw and name their favourite Ottawa fish from the five species discussed. Ask students to write about what they like about their chosen fish or why it is their favourite.