

“Roll to Build a Fish!” lesson plan

Duration: 15-30 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will be introduced to a native fish species found in the Ottawa area
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic needs and physical characteristics of freshwater fish
- Students will identify and illustrate the anatomy of fish and reflect on how these characteristics help fish meet their basic needs

Background:

What are the body parts of a fish? Fish have many unique physical characteristics that help them breathe, eat, and move underwater. By recognizing and illustrating the body parts of a fish, students will understand the anatomical features that are essential for fish to live. This activity will help students learn about and build connections with Largemouth Bass, a local freshwater fish species found in the Ottawa area.

Materials:

- One “Roll to Build a Fish!” handout per student
- One sheet of paper per student
- One writing utensil per student (pencil recommended)
- Colouring utensils
- Scissors
- Glue

Procedure:

1. As a class, name and discuss the body parts of a fish. Discuss why these features are important and how they help fish survive. For example, fish have gills to breathe underwater, eyes to see, and a tail and fins to swim. Do humans share any common anatomical features with fish, such as eyes and a mouth? Why might these common features be important for animals and humans?

Note: You can use page four of Watersheds Canada’s “Fish Activity Book” to facilitate your discussion and provide students with a visual representation of simple fish anatomy.
2. Give each student a “Roll to Build a Fish!” handout and an extra sheet of paper. On the handout, have students colour the fish body parts in each square and cut the outer shape. Then help students fold and glue the template into a cube.
3. Students will roll their cube (like a dice) and draw the part of the fish that lands face up on another sheet of paper. Have students keep rolling their cube (and drawing each new body part) until they have built an entire Largemouth Bass! Ready to roll and draw?