

“Yellow Perch Life Cycle” lesson plan

Duration: 20 minutes

Objectives:

- Students will be introduced to a native fish species found in the Ottawa area
- Students will illustrate the stages in the life cycle of a yellow perch
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the basic needs and physical characteristics of freshwater fish
- Students will compare changes in the appearance and behaviour of freshwater fish as they go through a complete life cycle
- Students will demonstrate an understanding that a cycle is a series of repeating events, and that cycles can be observed in daily and seasonal changes

Background:

The stages of an animal's life are called a life cycle. Yellow Perch lay their eggs on natural woody debris and vegetation to improve their spawning success and abundance. Roughly 10 days after fertilization, larval yellow perch hatch from the eggs. Juvenile yellow perch develop through a series of changes until eventually maturing into adults, where the cycle starts over again and continues. This activity will help students identify the stages in the life cycle of a fish and build connections with yellow perch, a native freshwater fish species found in the Ottawa area.

Materials:

- One “Yellow Perch Life Cycle” worksheet per student
- Colouring utensils
- Scissors
- Glue

Procedure:

1. Discuss the life cycle of a fish. Ask students how the look and behaviour of a fish changes as it goes through a complete life cycle. How is a life cycle like a circle?
2. Give each student a “Yellow Perch Life Cycle” worksheet. Have students colour each stage in the life cycle of a fish.
3. Have students cut and glue the pictures in order on the boxes labelled 1-4.
4. Then have students cut out the life cycle template on the straight lines.
5. Help students fold the dotted horizontal lines into pleats (like a fan or an accordian) such that the paper folds with the two halves of the title “The Life Cycle of Yellow Perch” meeting on the top.

