

FishOn! Lesson Plan



Fish in My State

Overview:

Students will learn key terms to help them explain where fish species live and conduct a research project describing a fish that lives in their state.

Students will be able to:

- Identify their official state fish.
- Use vocabulary words to describe where different fish species are found.
- Name several species of fish in their state and where the fish live.

Next Generation Science Standards

Practices

- Constructing Explanations

Core Ideas

- LS2: Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
- LS1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

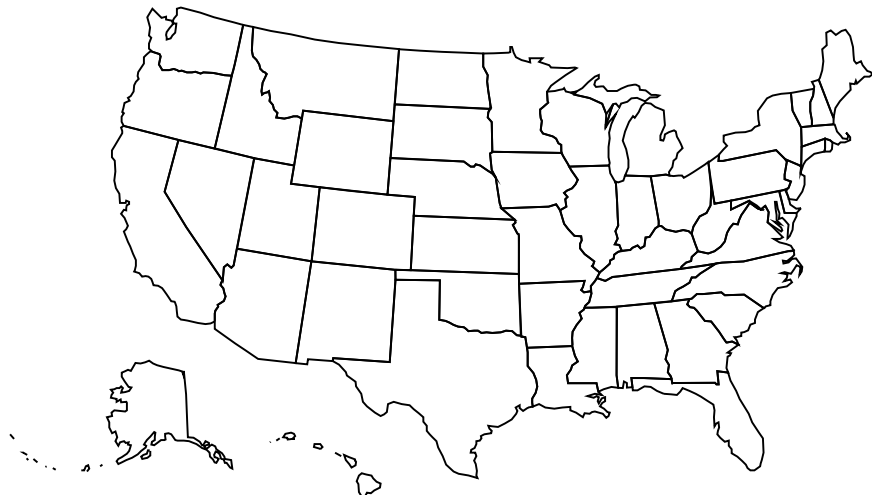
Crosscutting Concepts

- Patterns

Procedure:

Step 1: Most US states have an official state fish - some states that have saltwater and freshwater habitats have two! Begin discussion by researching your state's official state fish with the class. What is the importance of your state fish? How does it reflect the natural heritage of your state? Is it important to the economy or recreation?

The state fish is a great place to start when learning about the fish that call your area home!



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Step 2: Have students work in groups or as a class to research and define each term.

Educator Key:

Saltwater Fish - live in seawater.

Freshwater Fish - live in freshwater, like rivers and lakes.

Anadromous Fish - spend portions of their life cycles in fresh and salt water, typically traveling up rivers from the sea to reproduce.

Native Species - A species found in a place due to natural processes without human doing.

Endemic Species - A native species found only in a particular place. Their habitat can be as small as a single lake or small island.

Introduced Species - A species brought to an area by human doing, either by accident or on purpose.

Invasive Species - An introduced species which causes harm to native species, the environment, or human health.

Conservation Status - A rank used to determine how at risk a species is of declining in population or becoming extinct.

Step 3: Students will work alone or in small groups to complete the **Fish In My State Research Project** worksheet. Direct students to reputable resources such as the Department of Natural Resources or Fish and Wildlife Agency for your state.

When students have completed their worksheets, have them share an overview of their species either with the class or within a small group.

Wrap up by looking for patterns in the data with the class: what habitat is most common across your state? Are there more native or introduced species? Are there trends in the species conservation status?





Student Worksheet

Fish in My State

Name: _____

My State: _____

List the common name and scientific name of your chosen fish:

My fish is: (Circle up to two) NATIVE ENDEMIC INTRODUCED INVASIVE

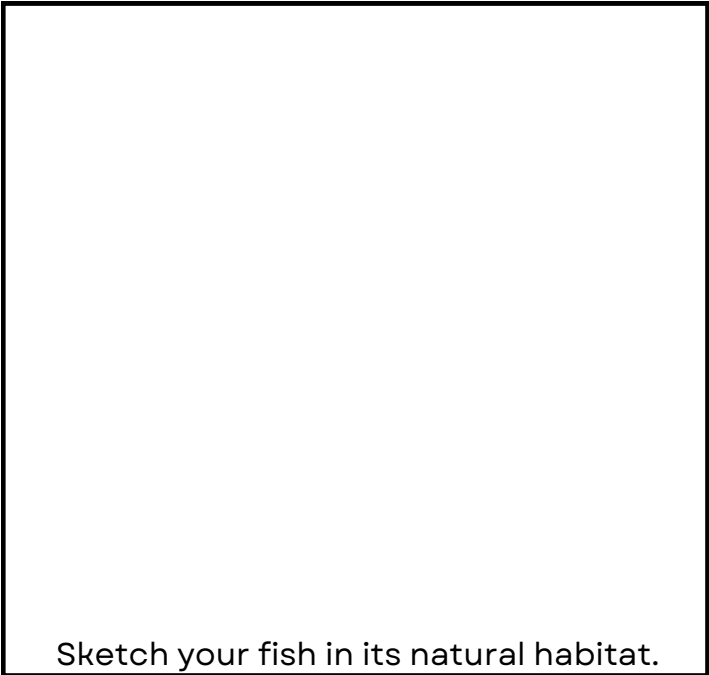
Describe the habitat of your fish. Where in your state is this habitat found?

Describe the characteristics of your fish. Include information about their fins and scales.

Describe what your fish eats.

What is the conservation status of your fish?

What threats, natural or man-made, does your fish face?



Sketch your fish in its natural habitat.