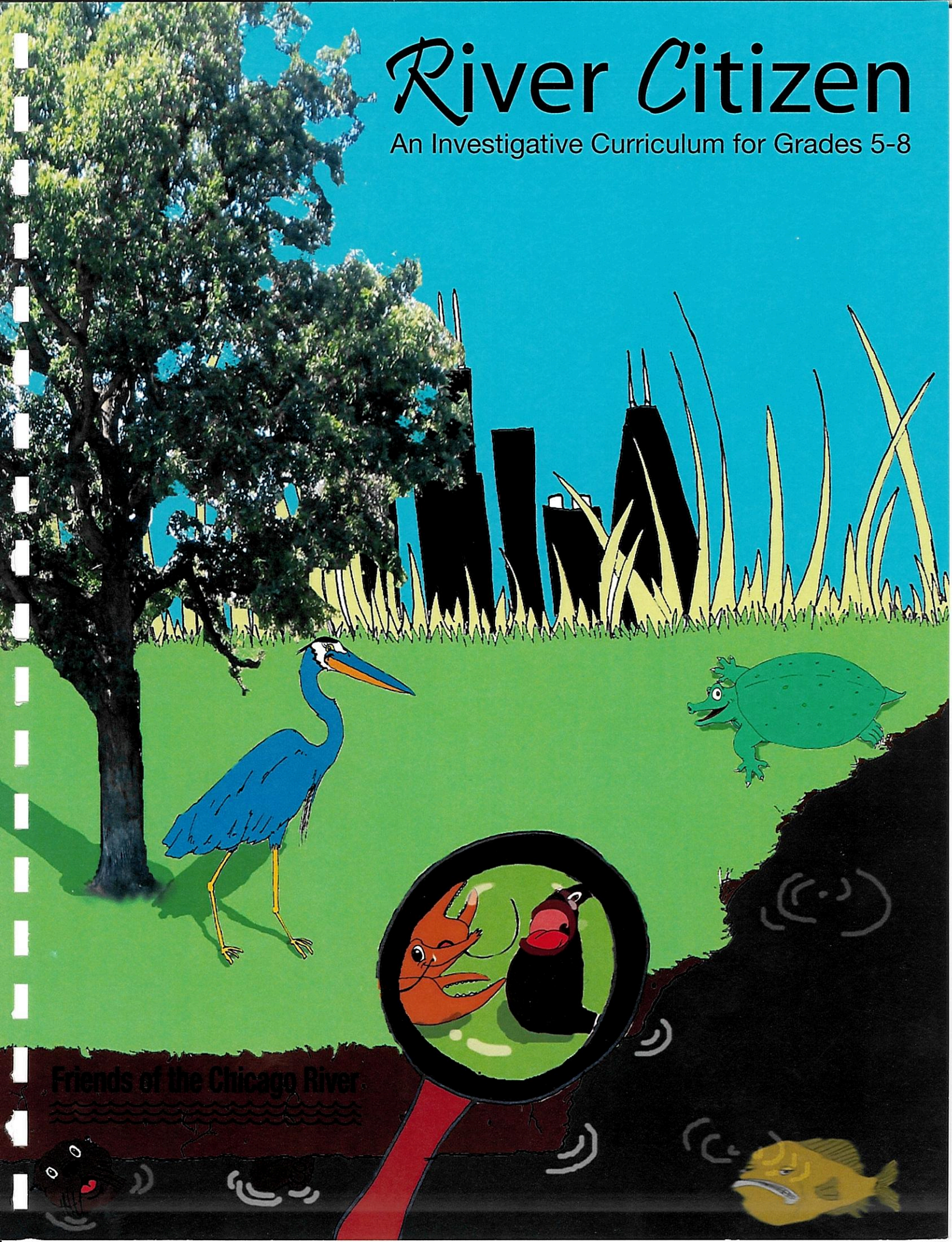


River Citizen

An Investigative Curriculum for Grades 5-8



Friends of the Chicago River

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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Joni Marin-Project Coordinator



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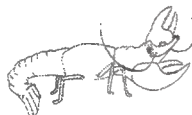
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RIVER CITIZEN OVERVIEW

Welcome teachers to this exciting study known as "River Citizen"! This program aims to teach students about the Chicago River and its watershed* through independent discovery and on the scientific method. The program is designed to allow students to establish a personal connection to the Chicago River and its watershed, and in turn have the desire to take individual action to help. Students will learn to appreciate nature and the environment as a whole and at the end of the program will become a designated "River Citizen".

The program is designed so that students are the investigators while the teachers are the facilitators. The students are referred to as the "Chicago River Study Team". The teacher is referred to as the "Team Leader" to emphasize the teachers role in the team process. The students should really feel like this is THEIR project. It is up to them to analyze the facts, form hypotheses, collect data, analyze data, make decisions and take action.

The program, which is divided into six stages, is a scientific investigation guided by the scientific method. At each stage, students work individually and in teams to further their understanding of the history, ecology and hydrology of the Chicago River and its watershed. Along the way, students come to appreciate the Chicago River and its watershed and build a personal connection to them. This connection serves to further inspire their work. At each stage there are specific objectives that the students must meet. It is suggested that the included lessons and activities be completed to fulfill the objectives. However, if the teacher has a favorite activity that would help students meet the stated objectives or would like to add in extra things, he/she should feel free to do so. An assessment piece follows each lesson. As part of the program, classrooms will track their collective positive impact on the Chicago River and its watershed by listing all the activities the students (and teacher) have done to improve the health of the river and watershed.

The teacher manual contains all the background information, resources and lessons needed to complete the program. References used in producing sections in the curriculum are cited after that section. Students are required to have a notebook dedicated to River Citizen. Student pages found in this manual, called Investigator pages, can be photocopied and taped into the students, notebooks. Every new section and lesson (called "Explorations") will be introduced to the students by the River Citizen Videotape. Teachers should play the introductions at the beginning of each section and each exploration for the students. Have a wonderful experience!!

* A watershed is the area of land that surrounds a body of water which drains into that body of water.