

Lets Go to the Bathtub! (Introductory Lesson)

Engaging Lesson Outline by Sarah Wolfe Gordon

Essential Question: (for larger unit/context of this lesson)

How do living things interact and depend on each other in our watershed?

Focusing Question:

What is a watershed?

Who uses and inhabits North Beach/Lake Champlain?

Assessment Plan:

The outcome of this lesson is for students to begin to identify species and their characteristics and how they live and uses Lake Champlain

Product: Students will fill out the Scavenger Hunt worksheet.

Criteria: Scientific observations, data collection, written reflection on how their observations connect to their understanding of what a watershed.

Procedure:

Pre-Visit (in classroom)

Students will use their science notebooks to begin brainstorm what they believe a watershed is. Then students will look at two YouTube videos: *USDA Watershed Learning Animation* and *What is a Watershed?* By EPA. Student's will then go back and clarify their definition.

Students will be asked: What body of water does our watershed drain into? What do you think we will see when we visit Lake Champlain on the shores of North Beach? This will lead into field trip discussion, expectations.

On-Site (at North Beach)

- Review field trip expectations
- Students will take their ***scavenger hunt worksheet*** and be grouped in pairs/ or small groups to begin exploring the shoreline.
- Once data is collected students will meet under the pavilion and begin to share their findings before going back to school.

Post-Field Trip (in classroom)

- Review findings and data collection.
- Did anyone find something that was surprising? Why?
- What role does Lake Champlain play in our watershed? Did you see any evidence to support that claim?

Extension: Students take a scavenger hunt worksheet home and explore a green space near their home.

Scavenger Hunt

Look for the following things. When you find them, write or draw a description in the blanks.

1. Three different kinds of leaves. Can you name them, if not sketch them below.

2. An insect. Where did you find it? _____

3. Something living under a log or rock. _____

4. Something that shows an animal may have passed there (animal track, scratches, droppings). _____

5. A seed built to float in the air. _____

6. One thing trout/bass or local fish need to survive. _____

7. Sit quietly with your eyes closed for a minute or two. What sounds do you hear? (Try to ignore people sounds.)

8. Something that is not native to the area. How do you think it got there? (e.g. bottle caps, candy wrap) _____

9. One thing trout/bass/local carnivorous fish eats. _____

10. An animal home on a tree or other plant. _____

11. An egg or larva _____