

Life in Saratoga Lake

Adapted from San Francisco Bay Watershed Curriculum, 2005

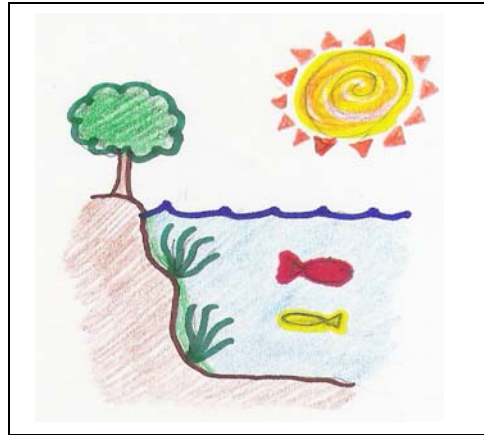
This project will teach students about plants and animals that live in Saratoga Lake through individual research and presentations to the class.

Objectives-

Learn about a plant or animal through internet and library research.

Estimated Time-

✓ 2- 3 weeks



Materials-

- ✓ Reference books featuring plants and animals of the Northeast
- ✓ Internet access and a printer
- ✓ Poster board
- ✓ Colored construction paper
- ✓ Markers, colored pencils, paint, letter stencils, and other art supplies

Procedure-

- 1) Have student choose a plant or animal to research, or assign them one.
- 2) Explain that they will become 'experts' on their plant or animal. Brainstorm with the class the type of questions they should ask to answer the question. Each student should answer between three and five research questions.
- 3) Suggested Animal Questions
 - i. What is its habitat? What adaptations help it survive there?
 - ii. What does it eat? Where does it find its food? What adaptations help it get food?
 - iii. Who are its predators?
 - iv. What do your animals look like?
 - v. What sounds (if any) does your animal make?

- vi. What does the animal tracks look like?
- vii. How does it reproduce?
- viii. What are some interesting facts about your animal?

3) Suggested Plant Questions

- i. What is its habitat? What adaptations help it survive there?
- ii. What animals eat it? What animals use it for shelter or protection?
- iii. How have humans used it (medicine, food, building materials, etc)?
- iv. Is it a native or introduced species? If introduced, how did it get here?
- v. What does your plant look like?
- vi. How does it reproduce?
- vii. What are some interesting facts about your plant?

- 4) After completing the research, students should write up the answers to their research questions in the form of a paper. Students should also make a poster about their plant or animal and present their findings to the class.