Activity 2

Introduction to Benthic Organisms and Local Fish Species

Students must understand a few basic organisms and their roles in an aquatic ecosystem to transfer this knowledge to the carbon, water, and nitrogen cycle.

This activity is not directed towards a memorization of species but an appreciation for the diversity of species in fresh water aquatic habitats.

Introduction

* The day before this lesson ask students to bring or post pictures of fish they have caught.
* Ask if anyone has ever gone hunting for crayfish? What environment was this species found?

Instruction

* Benthic Organisms – Bottom Dwelling Aquatic Invertebrates
  + [TN 4-H STEM - Ecological Detectives](https://ag.tennessee.edu/watersheds/Documents/Creek%20Critters,%20Ecological%20Detectives.pdf)
* Fish Identification
  + [TWRA’s Angler’s Guide to Tennessee Fish](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/twra/documents/anglersguide.pdf)
  + [Harpeth Conservancy – Guide to Common Fish](http://www.harpethconservancy.org/watershed/fish)

\*\*\* Find the resources that are specific to your location. Create a [Quizlet](https://quizlet.com) set to complement the benthic organisms and fish your students may encounter. This set will allow students to practice identification and home and provide a resource for stream id for those students who have a cell phone. \*\*\*

Evaluation

* Students can take a quiz the next day over the Quizlet set.
* During the onsite field trip or guest speaker students can be quizzed over live species.
* Student generated Google Slides demonstrating the knowledge of species and relationship between them.