

LESSON 2

POPULATION WAVES

Activity 1: Swimming through Time

Students review the timeline of lake sturgeon populations within the Great Lakes and choose five key events that they feel impacted sturgeon populations. They locate narrative descriptions of the five chosen events in the book to gather additional information. Students then choose one event they believe had the greatest impact and explain why. They are challenged to defend their position.

Activity Preparation

Pre-Reading

Have students review the timeline of events in “Saving Our Sturgeon” on p. 106-107.

Prior Knowledge

That timelines highlight events that the creator of the timeline deems important.

That a particular timeline typically has a specific topic or theme and only includes events that support that topic or theme.

Files Needed

- Point in Time (handout)

Activity Steps

Total estimated activity time – 45 minutes

Review the timeline of events in the book on p. 106-107. As a group or individually, students will choose five events they feel impacted sturgeon populations and find the page number in the book that provides a narrative description of the event. From their list of five selected events, students will pick a single event they believe had the most impact and explain why it was influential on sturgeon population history.

Objectives

After participating in this activity, students can:

Interpret a graphical timeline by correlating dates with their corresponding descriptions.

Make logical inferences about what an informational narrative text says explicitly or implicitly after conducting their own analysis of the text.

Describe a historical event that altered the relationship between humans and sturgeon, or the ecosystems they depend on, or that affected the sustainability of natural and/or cultural systems.

Wisconsin Academic Standards

Assessed

Environmental Literacy and Sustainability

ELS.EX2.B.m

English Language Arts

R.6.1, R.7.1, R.8.1

Great Lakes Literacy Principles

Principle 6

The Great Lakes and humans in their watersheds are inextricably interconnected.

Principle 8

The Great Lakes are socially, economically, and environmentally significant to the region, the nation, and the planet.