

Lesson Plan: “Is the Genesee River Healthy?” Discussion Circle

Description

An academic circle is used to discuss connection students have to the river and what their ideas are related to the health of the river. This lesson is meant to be an introduction to further investigation.



Essential Question

Is the Genesee River healthy?

Learning Targets

1. I can discuss my ideas and opinions with partners and a large group.
2. I can listen to the ideas and opinions of others.
3. I can use evidence to provide reasoning for my claims about the Genesee River.
4. I can create questions about the health of the river.

Class 7th-8th grade science 9-10th grade living environment	Duration 1 class periods (45 minutes)	Topics Environmental Health Human Impact Genesee River
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NGSS

Science and Engineering Practices Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions	Disciplinary Core Ideas ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems	Crosscutting Concepts Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World
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NYS Standards:

- 4.7.1e The environment may contain dangerous levels of substances (pollutants) that are harmful to organisms. Therefore, the good health of environments and individuals requires the monitoring of soil, air, and water, and taking steps to keep them safe.



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Plan for Lesson

Notes:

Students should be sitting in a circle for this lesson. Each student will need a copy of this article: <https://www.rochestercitynewspaper.com/rochester/report-provides-a-snapshot-of-the-genesee-river/Content?oid=3395477>

Or this one

<http://rochesterenvironmentny.blogspot.com/2011/05/is-genesee-river-healthy.html>

Engage (5 minutes)

Instruct students to switch to a chair other than the one next to them if they have ever:

1. seen the Genesee River.
2. taken a hike along the Genesee River.
3. gone fishing in the Genesee River.
4. gone boating in the Genesee River.
5. gone swimming in the Genesee River.

Ask students to think of three things they already know about the Genesee River. Have students share the three things they thought of with their partner. Have two or three students share what their partner shared with them.

Explore (10 minutes)

Give students the article, "Report provides a snapshot of the Genesee River" to read. Ask students to find a key sentence, phrase and word for understanding whether or not the Genesee River is healthy and be prepared to explain why they chose it (text rendering).

Explain (10 minutes) / Elaborate (10 minutes)

Establish norms for the discussion circle:

1. One person talks at a time (it is helpful to have a talking piece)
2. All discussion is related to the topic.
3. Actively listen to what others are saying

Round 1: What did you find in the reading that relates to the health of the Genesee River and why did you choose it?

Round 2: What connections or questions do you have related to what others shared?

Round 1: Do you think the Genesee River is healthy? Why or why not?

Round 2: What connections or questions do you have related to what others shared?



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Evaluate (10 minutes)

Students write their answer to the following prompts based on the discussion:

1. Is the Genesee River healthy?
2. Why do you think that?
3. What questions need to be answered before you can be sure the river is healthy or not?



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Name _____

Date _____

Student Worksheet

Is the Genesee River Healthy Discussion

Is the Genesee River Healthy?

Learning Targets

1. I can discuss my ideas and opinions with partners and a large group.
2. I can listen to the ideas and opinions of others.
3. I can use evidence to provide reasoning for my claims about the health of the Genesee River.
4. I can create questions about the health of the river.



Step 1: Move to a different chair if one of the following is true for you when your teacher calls the following out:

1. I have seen the Genesee River.
2. I have taken a hike along the Genesee River.
3. I have gone fishing in the Genesee River.
4. I have gone boating in the Genesee River.
5. I have gone swimming in the Genesee River.

Step 2: Write down what you already know about the Genesee River. Pair-share what you write down with the person next to you. Be prepared to share your partner's thoughts.

Three things about the Genesee River:
Three things my partner knows about the Genesee River:



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Step 2: Read the article. As you read look for one sentence, one phrase and one word related to the health of the river.

Sentence:
Phrase:
Word:

Step 3: Participate in a discussion about the health of the Genesee River.

Norms for the discussion circle:

1. One person talks at a time.
 2. All discussion is related to the topic.
 3. Actively listen to what others are saying
- Round 1: What did you find in the reading that relates to the health of the Genesee River and why did you choose it?
 - Round 2: What connections or questions do you have related to what others shared?
 - Round 3: Do you think the Genesee River is healthy? Why or why not?
 - Round 4: What connections or questions do you have related to what others shared?

Step 4: Record your ideas, thoughts and questions

Is the Genesee River healthy?
Why do you think that?
What questions need to be answered before you can be sure the river is healthy or not?



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