

Jr. Naturalist

Date:

How could you have improved your model?

CRAFT A CREATURE:

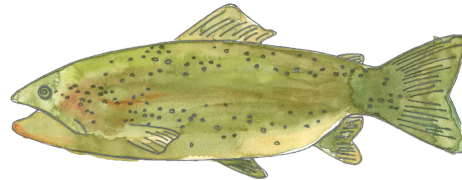
How does your creature react to other members of its species? Is it solitary or social?



FISH ANATOMY

ENGINEERING CHALLENGE: Neutral Buoyancy

Fish are able to float in water without sinking to the bottom or floating to the top using an organ called a swim bladder. This ability is called buoyancy.



Using objects you can find in your house or outside, build a neutrally buoyant model of a fish. You'll need items of different weights and densities. Try to make your model look as much like a fish as possible!

Some example objects are sticks, stones, pinecones, clay, paperclips, metal washers, ping pong balls, and pipe cleaners. Just make sure you have permission to use your building materials, and that you aren't taking natural materials from live trees.

In the box below, draw and label your most successful model and its position in the water:

Daily Challenge:

Observe a body of water around you, like a pond, lake, river or stream. (If you don't have one near you, look at a bird bath or put a shallow dish of water outside and watch from a distance). Write down what wildlife you see and describe their behavior below.

FISH FAMILIES

Fish are the most diverse group of vertebrate animals in the world! In fact there are more species of fish than there are all other vertebrates combined (amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals)!

Below are 6 different species of fish. Each one has a partner that comes from the same family. Match the fish that look like they belong in the same family, then describe what characteristics made you group them together. Pay special attention to their body shape and fin shape and size.



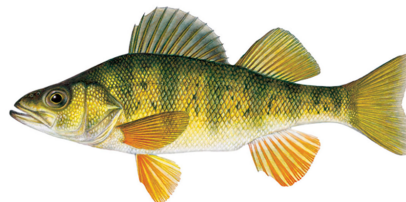
Chain Pickerel



Walleye



Brook Trout



Yellow Perch



Tiger Muskie



Rainbow Trout

Fish 1:

Fish 2:

Similar Characteristics:

Fish 1:

Fish 2:

Similar Characteristics:

Fish 1:

Fish 2:

Similar Characteristics:



Extended thinking: Why do you think all of these fish have dark colored backs but light colored bellies?