Lake Erie Nature & Science Center

OUR GREAT LAKE ERIE

Grades 4 and up | 120 Minutes

Program Overview

Description

Investigate Lake Erie both in the classroom and in person! We will hike to the lake and work in small groups to test water quality in Lake Erie and Porter Creek. Students will discover why Lake Erie is important and what lives there in a food web activity. *If scheduling a 90 min. field trip, please arrange for school buses to pick you up at the east end of the North parking lot in Huntington Reservation at the conclusion of your field trip. Available during the school year in the months of September, October, April or May.*

Adult chaperones recommended: 4 – 6

Content Standards

Subject	Gr	Ohio Department of Education Standards
Life Science	4	Changes in an organism's environment are sometimes beneficial to its survival and sometimes harmful
Life Science	5	Organisms perform a variety of roles in an ecosystem. All of the processes that take place within organisms require energy.
Earth Science	7	The hydrologic cycle illustrates the changing states of water as it moves through the lithosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere.
Climate Literacy Principles	2. Climate is regulated by complex interactions among components of the Earth system. 5. Our understanding of the climate system is improved through observations, theoretical studies, and modeling 7. Climate change will have consequences for the Earth system and human lives	

Vocabulary

abiotic/non-living
adaptation
aquatic
biotic/living
ecosystem
energy
fertilizer
habitat
invasive
native
non-native
nutrient
observation
oxygen
pH
phosphorus
runoff

Books we recommend

- Invasive Species Underwater by Richard Spilsbury. PowerKids Press, 2015.
- Twine Line Magazine Series by Ohio Sea Grant. Online at http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/products/twineline

Post-Trip Activities

- Research ways that humans can improve the health of aquatic ecosystems (e.g., recycling wastes, establishing rain gardens, planting native species).
- Research or conduct a field investigation for an aquatic invasive species that is present in the local community or in Ohio. Examples of research questions: How did the organism get into Ohio? What is being done to control the spread of the species? What is the impact of the species on the native organisms?

Other Resources

- http://greatlakesliteracy.net/ (Activities for teachers of all grade levels)
- http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/ (Activities for teachers of all grade levels)