Teaching Guide for

Fish Hotel


Written by Lynn Markham
Illustrated by Justin Sipiorski
Reviewed by Karen Blaha and Annie Baker
Ideas for grades 1-5
<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Age Level</strong></th>
<th>Grades 1-5</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Time Needed</strong></td>
<td>40 minutes + optional activities and videos</td>
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<td><strong>Goal</strong></td>
<td>Students learn about the role of trees in the water as part of lake and river ecosystems. Fallen trees provide shelter and food for fish and aquatic insects (fish food), plus basking and hunting sites for many other animals.</td>
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| **Materials** | *Fish Hotel* (30-page hardcover fiction book)  
Optional *Fish Hotels* (20-page softcover non-fiction book)  
Optional PowerPoint presentations at uwsp.edu/cnr/clue/Pages/Fish-Hotel-Kit.aspx |
| **Vocabulary** | **Aquatic plant** – A plant that grows in water.  
**Aquatic insect** – Insects that live in the water during at least part of their lives. Aquatic insects are food for fish, frogs, and birds.  
**Habitat** – The place where an animal lives that provides food, water, shelter, and space.  
**Shoreline** - The line where a body of water and the shore meet. |
| **Standards** | **Wisconsin Science Standards**  
**Crosscutting Concepts**  
Systems and system models  
  - SCI.CC4.K-2  
  - SCI.CC4.3-5  
Structure and function  
  - SCI.CC6.3-5  
**Science and Engineering Practices**  
Construct explanations and design solutions  
  - SCI.SEP6.A.3-5  
**Disciplinary Core Ideas**  
Life Science 1 – Structures and processes  
  - SCI.LS1.B.1  
  - SCI.LS1.B.3  
  - SCI.LS1.C.K  
  - SCI.LS1.C.5  
Life Science 2 – Interactions, energy and dynamics within ecosystems  
  - SCI.LS2.A.5  
  - SCI.LS2.C.3 |
| **Educator Prep** | Look at book, teaching guide questions, and Shorelines PowerPoint for Step 5 if using |

*Fish Hotel Teaching Guide, Page 1*
1. **Questions to discuss before the book reading** (5 minutes)
   - What does the title of the book tell us?
   - What do you find at a hotel?
   - How big is a fish when it hatches from its egg? A1
   - What do fish need to survive? A2
   - What is your favorite memory of a fish?

   A1: About the size of a green pea
   
   A2: Food: plants, aquatic insects, smaller fish, etc.  
       Shelter: trees, aquatic plants, and crevices between rocks  
       Water: suitable temperature and oxygen levels, not too polluted

2. **Book reading options** (10 minutes)
   - Read the hardcover book
   - Play the video of the book reading at youtube.com/watch?v=TjNYsRFmvjc
   - Read the book from the PowerPoint at uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Pages/Fish-Hotel-Kit.aspx
3. **Questions to discuss during or after the book reading** (10 minutes)
   - What differences do you see between the beach (page 8) and the fallen poplar trees (page 9)?
   - If you were a small fish, would you want to live in the water by the beach or the poplar trees? Why?
   - Why do you think people take trees out of a lake?
   - What happens to fish when people take trees out of a lake?
   - What animals do you see on or near the fish hotel? A3
   - Why do you think these animals are there?

A3: otter, turtles, great blue heron, people fishing, and kingfisher

4. **Optional - Have students in grades 3-5 read non-fiction softcover Fish Hotels** (10 minutes)
   - Turn and talk to a classmate to summarize what they learned. (2 minutes)
5. **Apply what you have learned** (2 options)

- Show and discuss Shorelines PowerPoint at [uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Pages/Fish-Hotel-Kit.aspx](http://uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/clue/Pages/Fish-Hotel-Kit.aspx) (15 minutes)
  - Are there fish hotels (fallen trees) and aquatic plants for shelter?
  - Are there trees along the shoreline that will become fish hotels in the future?
  - Are there trees along the shoreline to shade the water and keep it cool so fish have enough oxygen? Cold water holds more oxygen than warm water.
  - What can you do to help fish? See summary slide.

- Ask students to write a word or phrase about fish hotels and illustrate it. (10 minutes) See examples at [www.mrknightart.com/graphic-design/assignments-pg-3/8-0-illustrated-words/](http://www.mrknightart.com/graphic-design/assignments-pg-3/8-0-illustrated-words/) Ask students to explain their illustration.
Video options after reading *Fish Hotel*

Fish biologist in Michigan shows underwater fish footage and explains what people can do to help fish (7:00)
youtube.com/watch?v=CA1CY5vUI10

Engbretson Underwater Photography video of largemouth bass swimming through a large pine tree (0:30)
youtube.com/watch?v=HPCgN-F_fto

Fishing show talking about fish hotels (2:30)
youtube.com/watch?v=7kURYFYxuSc