

Life Along the Red River

A Life Science lesson focusing on the plant and animal life along the Red River.

Louisiana Science Content Standards:

LS-E-A1 - identifying the needs of plants and animals, based on age-appropriate recorded observations

LS-E-A3 - locating and comparing major plant and animal structures and their functions

LS-E-A4 - recognizing that there is great diversity among organisms

LS-E-C1 - examining the habitats of plants and animals and determining how basic needs are met within each habitat

LS-M-C4 - explaining the interaction and interdependence of nonliving and living components within ecosystems

LS-H-D4 - exploring how humans have impacted ecosystems and the need for societies to plan for the future

Lesson Objectives:

After viewing the Red River Waterway Commission video *Now I've Seen Everything* the student will develop a graphic organizer or Power Point presentation that contains the following information:

1. Choose a parish along the Red River to create or print a map.
Parishes along the Red River: Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, West Feliciana, Winn
Maps: <http://www.enlou.com/places/water.htm>
2. Identify the plant life along the Red River.
3. Identify the animal life along the Red River.
4. Choose at least one animal and one plant to research. (More for upper grade levels)

Resources and Supplies:

1. Red River Waterway Commission video *Now I've Seen Everything*
2. White paper for graphic organizer (i.e. Dinah Zike projects and graphic organizers or stapled booklet)
3. Maps: <http://www.enlou.com/places/water.htm>
4. Colored pencils
5. ****Student may create Power Point presentations if technology is available.****

I) Anticipatory Set/teacher generated discussion:

Use a large map to point out the Red River. Ask students if they have ever been to the Red River. What parishes contain parts of the Red River? What is the importance of the Red River? . . .Lead up to questions about life on the Red River.

II) Objectives and transition:

- a) View the Red River Waterway Commission video *Now I've Seen Everything*.
- b) After viewing the video the student will develop a graphic organizer or Power Point presentation that contains the following information:
 - i) Choose a parish along the Red River to create or print a map. Parishes along the Red River: Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, Red River, West Feliciana, Winn - Maps: <http://www.enlou.com/places/water.htm>
 - ii) Identify the plant life along the Red River.
 - iii) Identify the animal life along the Red River.
 - iv) Choose at least one animal and one plant to research in depth. (More for upper grade levels)

III) Closure:

Have students share their power point projects or graphic organizers as a presentation.