Enviro-Time Storytime:
Recommended Environmental Reading Lists
For Children Pre-K to 12
2nd Edition

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Dear Educators,

This Enviro-Time Storytime Recommended Reading resource has been crafted with you and your students in mind. Its authors—educators and scientists—encourage you to share, adapt, modify, and expand the ideas and recommendations in ways that uplift and honor your students. Interdisciplinary and justice oriented, these pages contain seedlings of ideas for you to grow. We have designed each to be accessible and useful. Please feel free to send us your feedback so that we may continue to enhance these cross-curricular book recommendations and lesson plans to benefit more students and teachers.

One goal of this reading list is to promote Great Lakes literacy and learning, as well as appreciation of stewardship toward the Great Lakes and natural resources that sustain our lives on Earth. However, the opportunity in reading – and our overarching goal – is even greater. We hope to expand multicultural, multilingual, and multidimensional classroom experiences for all children. In order for all students to be joyful participants in the classroom community, they must see themselves in the chosen texts. And so, as educators, you must be readers yourselves. Keeping in mind that texts take many forms, we encourage you to add to the offerings here with poetry, articles, musical pieces, letters, memes, labs, and artwork. We are thrilled to share our goals with you through these pages.

As critical scholars, we challenge you to dive deeply into this interdisciplinary and innovative work to honor each individual child in your care and to tap their potential in ways not yet imagined.

We encourage you to teach your students to make observations, ask questions, and inquire toward answers; to critically think about themselves and their role (and value) in our world; to talk freely about social, ecological, and justice issues; wonder out loud; and to know that their young voices can inspire a world of change.

Bell Hooks reminds us in Teaching to Transgress (1994) that “to teach in a manner that respects and cares for the souls of our students is essential if we are to provide the necessary conditions where learning can most deeply and intimately begin” (p.13). We encourage you to develop such conditions in your teaching spaces by modeling community activism and care. Enjoy the journey as you educate our young Great Lakes stewards and community leaders both now and in our future.

Sincerely,
Kate Haq, PhD
Literacy Specialist
The Park School of Buffalo

March 2021
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*The books, videos, activities, and other links contained in the Enviro-Time Storytime Recommended Reading Lists are for informational purposes only. New York Sea Grant does not accept liability for any injuries or damages caused by those acting upon or using the content contained in this publication. New York Sea Grant does not endorse the content of this publication and does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of the information. Future content added to these links is not reviewed or approved by New York Sea Grant.*
The Enviro-Time Storytime recommended reading lists are designed to connect young people in the Great Lakes region, and beyond, to their local natural and community environments. This is especially important as schools create and implement remote-learning educational environments and during such times as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Each list contains thoughtfully selected books, activities, and read-alouds to engage young readers. Care has been given to selecting titles appropriate for the Great Lakes environment, but ones that will also encourage learning about the resources in one's own locale. A Graphic Organizer tool (pg. 55) has been included to assist students with making their own personal connections to the stories.

Each book's page features the book's cover, suggested grade/age level, the associated subject areas, the publisher, an activity, and links for additional resources such as videos or reading guides. In many cases, the book descriptions were taken from publisher materials. The website at http://www.nyseagrant.org/envirotime provides a list of independent booksellers to seek out in New York's Great Lakes region for additional resources to add to your libraries.

*Educators are advised to carefully preview links as some sites may have advertising or unrelated content. Listings are strictly for informational purposes and do not constitute an endorsement.*
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Recommended Reading List:

*Diversity in the Coastal Sciences*

**Section A:** The purpose of this Diversity in the Coastal Sciences reading series is to promote young readers’ interest in the various environmental sciences and related workforce opportunities by seeing themselves in the stories of people who are pioneering scientists and environmental advocates from around the world.

**Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 3rd Grade:**
- *Galimoto* by Karen Lynn Williams, illustrated by Catherine Stock  
  Page 8
- *The Meteorologist in Me* by Brittney Shipp, illustrated by Robin Boyer  
  Page 9

**PK-5th Grade:**
- *Science is Everywhere, Science is for Everyone* by Dr. Jeannette Davis  
  Page 10
- *Swimming with Sharks: The Daring Discoveries of Eugenie Clark*  
  by Heather Lang, illustrated by Jordi Solano  
  Page 11

**K-4th Grade:**
- *The Vast Wonder of the World: Biologist Ernest Everett Just*  
  by Mélina Mangal, illustrated by Luisa Uribe  
  Page 12

**1st-5th Grade:**
- *Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World*  
  by Laurie Lawlor, illustrated by Laura Beingessner  
  Page 13

**2nd-6th Grade:**
- *Sarah Mather and Underwater Telescopes* by Ellen Labrecque  
  Page 14
- *Life in the Ocean: The Story of Oceanographer Sylvia Earle* by Claire A. Nivola  
  Page 15
- *Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Marie Tharp Maps the Ocean Floor*  
  by Robert Burleigh, illustrated by Raúl Colón  
  Page 16

**4th-8th Grade:**
- *Sea Turtle Scientist* by Stephen R. Swinburne  
  Page 17

**5th-12th Grade:**
- *Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World*  
  written and illustrated by Rachel Ignotofsky  
  Page 18
Recommended Reading List:

Books By and About Indigenous North Americans

This recommended reading resource has been designed to feature a diversity of peoples, places, and sciences. Our goal is to inspire children from a young age to increase their environmental knowledge and to engage in environmental stewardship. The list below notes books that are written by or about Indigenous North Americans. We encourage you and your students to learn about the Indigenous Peoples where you live.

There are 574 federally-recognized Tribal communities in the United States. Additionally, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians (Kanaka Maoli) have distinct status as Indigenous Peoples. To learn more about the Tribal Nations of the United States, see the National Congress of American Indians website at https://www.ncai.org/about-tribes.

Canada recognizes three distinct groups of Indigenous Peoples: First Nations, the Métis, and the Inuit as the original inhabitants of the land. For more information, see the Government of Canada website at https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca and https://native-land.ca.


Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 2nd Grade:

- **We Are Water Protectors** by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade 21
- **The Water Walker** written and illustrated by Joanne Robertson 22

PK-4th Grade:

- **Nanabosho, Soaring Eagle and The Great Sturgeon** 44
  by Joe McClellan, illustrated by Rhian Byrnjolson

PK-6th Grade:

- **A River Ran Wild** by Lynne Cherry 35

2nd-6th Grade:

- **The Water Walker Series: 1) Water Walkers, 2) Stepping Stones, 3) Ripples and Waves** 51
  by Carole Trembath, illustrated by David W. Craig

The American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (https://cals.cornell.edu/american-indian-indigenous-studies) at Cornell University provided technical assistance for this section.
Galimoto

Author: Karen Lynn Williams
Illustrator: Catherine Stock

Kondi is determined to make a galimoto—a toy vehicle made of wires. His brother laughs at the idea, but all day Kondi goes about gathering up the wire he needs. By nightfall, his wonderful galimoto is ready for the village children to play with in the light of the moon. This Reading Rainbow book is a school and library favorite that offers a view of life in the southeast African nation of Malawi, one of the world's least-developed nations.

Grade Level: PK-3rd
Ages: 4-8
Subject Areas: African Culture
STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics)
Self-Reliance

Publish Date: August 21, 1991
ISBN: 978-0688109912
Length: 32 pages
Publisher: Harper Collins


Reading Rainbow Episode S9E4: https://dailymotion.com/video/x6et3l4

Activity
Make a Galimoto: Wire Car

- Watch “Making Wire Cars in South Africa” video
- Use pipe cleaners, floral wire, and twist ties to make a wire car


Diversity in the Coastal Sciences
The Meteorologist in Me

Author: Brittney Shipp
Illustrator: Robin Boyer

The Meteorologist in Me is an inspirational tale about a little girl named Summer who has a big dream. She wants to become a TV meteorologist. She loves sharing weather facts with her family and friends and wonders why everyone laughs at the thought of her on TV. Join Summer’s journey as she overcomes her fears, conquers her doubts, and gains the courage to reach for her dream. The Meteorologist in Me encourages us to remember that we can do anything we put our minds to—no matter what!

Grade Level: PK-3rd
Ages: 4-8
Subject Areas: African Culture, STEM, Weather
Publish Date: August 21, 1991
ISBN: 978-0692757987
Length: 26 pages
Publisher: The Power of Love Books
https://www.thepoweroflovebooks.com

Read Aloud Video by Author: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UDCsShphzg
Read Aloud Video in Spanish: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Gcy6WTtoarU
Science is Everywhere, Science is for Everyone

Author: Dr. Jeannette Davis
Illustrator: Philbert Washington

Science is Everywhere, Science is for Everyone is a fun and innovative way to introduce young readers to a variety of sciences. Through familiar concepts and examples, readers will learn about subjects such as geology, chemistry, microbiology, anatomy, and astronomy. Young readers will learn science can be as simple as baking a cake or visiting the zoo to thrilling adventures such as studying the ocean or launching a rocket. Science is Everywhere, Science is for Everyone is designed to both display and diversify science for children.

Grade Level: PK-5th
Ages: 4-9
Subject Areas: Diversity in Science, STEM, Geosciences
Publish Date: January 14, 2020
ISBN: 978-1948145671
Length: 22 pages
Publisher: Mynd Matters Publishing
http://myndmatterspublishing.com/portfolio/science-is-everywhere

Activity

Brainstorm the STEM Parts of Your Favorite Thing to Do
Inflate a Balloon with Science

Video with Read Aloud (4:50), Interview with author/marine microbiologist Dr. Jeannette Davis (14:29), science experiment (17:54) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FLIndjifdtI

Author’s Website: www.drjeanettedavis.com
Before Japanese-American Eugenie Clark’s groundbreaking research, most people thought sharks were vicious, blood-thirsty killers. From the first time she saw a shark in an aquarium, Eugenie was enthralled. Instead of seeing frightening and ferocious eating machines, She saw sleek, graceful fish gliding through the water. After Eugenie became a scientist—an unexpected career path for a woman in the 1940s, she began making research dives and training sharks, earning her the nickname “The Shark Lady.”

**Activity**

Make Origami Sharks!

- Shark Cootie Catcher
- Origami Paper Shark

**Publisher’s Teacher’s Guide:**

**Author’s Website:**
https://www.heatherlangbooks.com/swimming-with-sharks

**Read Aloud Video:**
https://youtu.be/g84bilXpTew

*Diversity in the Coastal Sciences*
Ernest Everett Just was not like other scientists of his time. He saw the whole, where others saw only parts. He noticed details others failed to see. He persisted in his research despite the discrimination and limitations imposed on him as an African-American. His keen observations of sea creatures revealed new insights about egg cells and the origins of life. Through stunning illustrations and lyrical prose, this picture book presents the life and accomplishments of this long overlooked scientific pioneer.
Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World

Author: Laurie Lawlor
Illustrator: Laura Beingessner

Rachel Carson and Her Book That Changed the World is a children’s novel written in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of Silent Spring, written by Rachel Carson, a pioneering environmentalist. She wrote, “Once you are aware of the wonder and beauty of earth, you will want to learn about it.” This illustrated biography of Rachel Carson is for children in 1st-5th grade.

Grade Level: 1st-5th
Guided Reading Level: Q
Ages: 6-10
Subject Areas: Biography
Ecology & Conservation
Women’s History

Publish Date: August 31, 2014
ISBN: 978-0823431939
Length: 32 pages
Publisher: Holiday House

Smithsonian Reading Guide: http://amhistory.si.edu/ourstory/pdf/environment/environment_read.pdf

Read Aloud Video: https://youtu.be/WAyek182JGA

Activity

Birdwatching & Listening with Audubon for Kids!
Sarah Mather and Underwater Telescopes

Author: Ellen Labrecque

The 21st Century Junior Library Women Innovators series highlights the contributions of women to the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. *Sarah Mather and Underwater Telescopes* examines the life of an American woman and her contributors to underwater exploration. Sidebars encourage readers to engage in the material by asking deeper questions or conducting individual research. Full-color photos, a glossary, and a listing of additional resources enhance the learning experience.

**Grade Level:** 2nd-6th

**Ages:** 7-10

**Subject Areas:** Women in Science, Inventions, STEM, Biography

**Publish Date:** January 1, 2017

**ISBN:** 978-1634723138

**Length:** 24 pages

**Publisher:** Cherry Lake Publishing

[https://cherrylakepublishing.com/shop/show/50781](https://cherrylakepublishing.com/shop/show/50781)

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**Activity**

*Make an Aquascope!*
Sylvia Earle first lost her heart to the ocean as a young girl when she discovered the wonders of the Gulf of Mexico in her backyard. As an adult, she dives even deeper. Sylvia Earle has dedicated her life to learning more about what she calls “the blue heart of the planet.” *Life in the Ocean* tells the story of how her ocean exploration and advocacy have made her known around the world. This picture book biography includes an informative author’s note that will motivate a new generation of young environmentalists.

**Grade Level:** 2nd-6th  
**Ages:** 6-11  
**Subject Areas:** Biography, Ecology & Conservation, Women’s History  
**Publish Date:** March 13, 2012  
**ISBN:** 978-0374380687  
**Length:** 32 pages  
**Publisher:** Macmillan Publishers  
https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781466808799  
**Read Aloud Video:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWeawRgmq4A
Filled with gorgeous illustrations by acclaimed artist Raúl Colón, this biography shares the story of pioneering female scientist, Marie Tharp. Despite past failures and challenges—sometimes Marie would be turned away from a ship because having a woman aboard was “bad luck,” Marie was determined to succeed. And she did. She became the first person to chart the ocean floor, helping us to better understand the planet that we call home.
Dr. Kimberly Stewart, known as the “Turtle Lady of St. Kitts,” is already waiting at midnight when an 800-pound leatherback sea turtle crawls out of the Caribbean surf and onto the sandy beach. The mother turtle has a vital job to do: dig a nest in which she will lay eggs that will hatch as part of the next generation of leatherbacks. With only one in a thousand of the eggs for this critically-endangered species resulting in an adult sea turtle, the odds are stacked against her and her offspring. Join renowned author and photographer Stephen R. Swinburne on a journey through history to learn how sea turtles came to be endangered and what scientists, including Dr. Stewart, are doing to save them.
Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World

Author-Illustrator: Rachel Ignotofsky

A charmingly illustrated and educational book, and a New York Times Best Seller, Women in Science highlights the contributions of 50 notable women to the STEM fields from ancient to modern times. Full of striking, singular art, this fascinating collection contains infographics about relevant topics such as lab equipment, the number of women working in STEM fields, and an illustrated scientific glossary. This book celebrates the achievements of the intrepid women who have paved the way for the next generation of female engineers, biologists, mathematicians, doctors, astronauts, physicists, and ...!

Grade Level: 5th-12th
Ages: 10 and older
Subject Areas: Women in Science, STEM, Biography
Publish Date: July 26, 2016
ISBN: 978-1607749769
Length: 128 pages
Publisher: Ten Speed Press
https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/534776/women-in-science-by-rachel-ignotofsky

Activities
- Six Female Scientists Every Child Should Know
- Women in Science: 100 postcards and puzzle on the author’s website: see url below

Author’s TEDx Talk: https://youtu.be/386kmzBH4Coe

Diversity in the Coastal Sciences
Recommended Reading List:

Environmental Activism for Kids

**Section B:** The books in this Environmental Activism for Kids section engage youth in PK-4th grade. This list was developed in part based on the Wisconsin Sea Grant Recommended Reading: Environmental Activism: Doing Good for the Earth list (https://waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/activism_aug16.pdf).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 1st Grade:</th>
<th>Page</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>One World: Our Chance to Save the Planet</strong></td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>written and illustrated by Michael Foreman</td>
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<th>PK-2nd Grade:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>We Are Water Protectors</strong> by Carole Lindstrom, illustrated by Michaela Goade</td>
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<td><strong>The Water Walker</strong> written and illustrated by Joanne Robertson</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>We Planted a Tree</strong> by Diane Muldrow, illustrated by Bob Staake</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Our House is On Fire: Greta Thunberg’s Call to Save the Planet</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter</td>
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<th>PK-3rd Grade:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Follow the Moon Home</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>by Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson, illustrated by Meilo So</td>
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<tr>
<th>PK-4th Grade:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Seeds of Change</strong> by Jen Cullerton Johnson, illustrated by Sonia Lynn Sadler</td>
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</table>
One World: Our Chance to Save the Planet is a story about the threat of pollution to the environment, particularly the seashore. A brother and sister spend their day playing on the beach by a rock pool. They create their own tiny marine world in a bucket, and, with its wildlife, shells, oil, and even a tin can, it is a microcosm of the larger world. With a series of stunning watercolor illustrations, multiple award-winning children’s author-illustrator Michael Foreman makes clear his concern about pollution and the environment.

Grade Level: PK-1st
Ages: 4-6
Subject Areas: Science, English Language Arts
Publish Date: June 1, 2012
ISBN: 978-1849393041
Length: 35 pages
Publisher: Andersen Press
https://www.andersenpress.co.uk/books/one-world/
Read Aloud Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NX-64sZScC8
Inspired by the many Indigenous Peoples-led movements across North America, *We Are Water Protectors* issues an urgent rallying cry to safeguard the Earth's water from harm and corruption. This bold and lyrical picture book is written by Carole Lindstrom and vibrantly illustrated by Michaela Goade. When a black snake threatens to destroy the Earth, and poison her people's water, one young water protector takes a stand to defend Earth's most sacred resource.

**Grade Level:** PK-2nd  
**Ages:** 4-7  
**Subject Areas:** Science, English Language Arts, North American Indigenous Cultures

**Publish Date:** March 17, 2020  
**ISBN:** 978-1250203557  
**Length:** 40 pages

**Publisher:** Macmillan/Roaring Brook Press  
https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250203557

**Publisher’s Activity Guides:**  

**Author’s Read Aloud Video:**  
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-zPU4iSpco
The Water Walker
Author/Illustrator: Joanne Robertson

The Water Walker is the story of a determined Ojibwe grandmother (nokomis) Josephine Mandamin, and her great love for nibi (water). Nokomis walks to raise awareness of our need to protect nibi for future generations and for all life on the planet. She, along with other women, men, and youth, has walked around all the Great Lakes from the four salt waters, or oceans, to Lake Superior. The walks are full of challenges. By her example, Josephine Mandamin challenges us all to take up our responsibility to protect our water, the giver of life, and to protect our planet for all generations. There is a dual language (Ojibwe and English) edition of this book.

Grade Level: PK-2nd
Ages: 4-7
Subject Areas: Science
English Language Arts
North American Indigenous Cultures

Publish Date: September 15, 2017
ISBN: 978-1772600384
Length: 36 pages
Publisher: Second Story Press

Teacher’s Guide: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5783b41337c581c34c808812/t/5dd2b8f60c387165ab680c46/1574090999431/The+Water+WalkerTeachers+Guide.pdf

Author Interview: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkVCUhczi7c
In this poetic picture book with environmental themes, two young families in two very different parts of the world each plant a tree. As the trees flourish, so do the families... while trees all around the world help clean the air, enrich the soil, and give fruit and shade. With a nod to Kenya's successful Green Belt Movement, Diane Muldrow’s elegant text celebrates life and the hope that every tree—from Paris to Brooklyn to Tokyo—brings to our planet.

**We Planted a Tree**

**Author:** Diane Muldrow  
**Illustrator:** Bob Staake

Grade Level: PK-2nd  
Ages: 3-7  
Subject Areas: Science, English Language Arts

Publish Date: February 23, 2016  
ISBN: 978-0553539035  
Length: 40 pages  
Publisher: Random House Dragonfly Books  
Read Aloud Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch](https://www.youtube.com/watch)

**Activity**

Our House Is On Fire: Greta Thunberg’s Call to Save The Planet

Author-Illustrator: Jeanette Winter

This is a true story. Greta Thunberg heard her teacher explain that our climate is changing—the earth is getting warmer, the polar ice caps are melting, and life on earth is threatened. Greta was devastated. If the grown-ups weren't doing enough to save the planet, Greta would have to demand change herself. So she went on strike, and her lone protest sparked a worldwide student movement for action on climate change. Greta, who grew up in Stockholm, Sweden, is showing everyone that even the smallest person can make a big difference; she was named Time Magazine’s Person of the Year in 2019. This picture book informs and inspires young readers who are beginning to learn about the world around them.

Grade Level: PK-2nd
Ages: 3-7
Subject Areas: Science
Activism
Climate Change

Publish Date: September 24, 2019
ISBN: 978-1534467781
Length: 40 pages
Publisher: Beach Lane Books


Activity
Play the Greenhouse Game

Publisher’s Curriculum Guide:
https://d28hgpri8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/5512042/9781534467781_cg_our%20house%20is%20on%20fire%20curriculum%20guide.pdf

Read Aloud Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErFCIOqUj7Q
Follow the Moon Home

Authors: Philippe Cousteau and Deborah Hopkinson

Illustrator: Meilo So

Follow the Moon Home is a triumphant story of environmental activism, community, and friendship. Acclaimed activist Philippe Cousteau and renowned author Deborah Hopkinson team up to offer this story of the powerful difference that young people can make in the world. Meet Viv, who has a new home and a new school by the sea. Follow her as she finds her way in this new place and helps bring together a whole community to save the sea turtles of the South Carolina coast.

Grade Level: PK-3rd

Ages: 4-8

Subject Areas: Science

English Language Arts

Publish Date: April 5, 2016

ISBN: 978-1452112411

Length: 48 pages

Publisher: Chronicle Books

https://www.chroniclebooks.com/products/follow-the-moon-home

Publisher’s Teaching Curriculum:


Read Aloud Video: https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=3385483318134016

Environmental Activism for Kids 25
As a young girl in Kenya, Wangari was taught to respect nature. She grew up loving the land, plants, and animals that surrounded her—from the giant mugumo trees that her people, the Kikuyu, revered to the tiny tadpoles that swam in the river. Although most Kenyan girls were not educated, Wangari, curious and hardworking, was allowed to go to school. There, she excelled at science before going on to study in the United States. Returning home, Wangari used her knowledge and compassion to promote the rights of her country’s women and to help save the land—one tree at a time. *Seeds of Change* brings to life the empowering story of Wangari Maathai, the first African woman, and the first environmentalist, to win a Nobel Peace Prize.

**Activity**

*Plant a Native Tree!*

*for western NY, check with your local Extension office*
Section C: The books on this Sustainability for Kids recommended reading list were selected to increase young readers’ knowledge on how to think and live in a more sustainable way.

Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 1st Grade:  
- *The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle* by Alison Inches, illustrated by Peter Whitehead  
  Page 28  
- *Don’t Throw That Away!* by Lara Bergen, illustrated by Betsy E. Snyder  
  Page 29

PK-3rd Grade:  
- *Kenya’s Art* by Linda Trice, illustrated by Hazel Mitchell  
  Page 30  
- *City Green* written and illustrated by DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan  
  Page 31  
- *The Berenstain Bears Go Green* written and illustrated by Jan & Mike Berenstain  
  Page 32  
- *The Trouble with Dragons* written and illustrated by Debi Gliori  
  Page 33  
- *The Trees* by Stanley Lake, illustrated by Véronique Stéfanica  
  Page 34

PK-6th Grade:  
- *A River Ran Wild* by Lynne Cherry  
  Page 35

K-2nd Grade:  
- *George Saves the World by Lunchtime* by Jo Readman, illustrated by Ley Roberts  
  Page 36

K-3rd Grade:  
- *The Lonely Polar Bear* written and illustrated by Khoa Le  
  Page 37

K-4th Grade:  
  Page 38

2nd-5th Grade:  
- *The Runaway Dandelion* by Jill Regensburg, illustrated by Leticia Plate  
  Page 39  
- *The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge* by Joanna Cole, illustrated by Bruce Degen  
  Page 40

3rd-7th Grade:  
- *Moth and Wasp, Soil and Ocean* by Sigrid Schmalzer, illustrated by Melanie Linden Chan  
  Page 41

6th-8th Grade:  
- *Mayah’s Lot* by Charlie La Greca and Rebecca Bratspies, graphic art by Charlie La Greca  
  Page 42
Learn about recycling from a new perspective—told from the point of view of a free-spirited plastic bottle! Peek into this diary of a plastic bottle as it goes on a journey from the refinery plant to the manufacturing line to the store shelf to a garbage can, and, finally, to a recycling plant where it emerges into its new life... as a fleece jacket! Readers can share in the daily experiences and inner thoughts of the bottle through its personal journal. The fun and humorous diary entries point out the ecological significance behind each product mentioned and the resources used to make it. You will never look at a plastic bottle the same way again! This book is part of the Little Green Book Series.

Grade Level: PK-1st
Ages: 4-6
Subject Areas: Sustainability/Conservation, Recycling
Publish Date: January 6, 2009
ISBN: 978-1416967880
Length: 32 pages
Publisher: Little Simon (Simon and Schuster)
Read Aloud Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vhj5aRuyBgE

Activity
Recycling Rescue Game
Follow an eco-conscious superhero as he teaches kids how to recycle and reuse common household items! The book’s six large flaps show that ordinary trash is really a treasure—from turning old clothes into fun costumes or an old box into a brand new car. Kids will learn that saving the environment is super cool! This book is part of the Little Green Book Series.

**Activity**

**Make a Bird Feeder from Recycled Materials**

Grade Level: PK-1st  
Ages: 4-6  
Subject Areas: Sustainability, Recycling  
Publish Date: October 13, 2009  
ISBN: 978-1416975175  
Length: 14 pages  
Publisher: Simon and Schuster  
Read-Aloud Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25AiaU0u8N8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25AiaU0u8N8)
Kenya's Art

Author: Linda Trice
Illustrator: Hazel Mitchell

Kenya's class is on spring vacation and their teacher has asked them to write a report about how they spent their time. Kenya hasn't done anything worth noting until a visit to a museum's recycling exhibit and a walk through her neighborhood with her daddy inspire Kenya to use her old, broken toys and other items to make art. Now she's prepared to teach her whole class how to "Recycle! Reuse! Make Art!". This warm and engaging companion book to Kenya's Song depicts the enthusiasm and creativity of one young girl in a diverse community. She engages wholeheartedly with her friends, her environment, and herself.

Grade Level: PK-3rd
Ages: 4-8
Subject Areas: Sustainability/Conservation, African-American Heroine
Publish Date: January 12, 2016
ISBN: 978-1570918483
Length: 32 pages
Publisher: Charlesbridge
Author's Website: https://lindatrice.com
Read Aloud Video: https://youtu.be/PA_yQPDV43w

Activity
Make a Recycling Art Project Just Like Kenya Did!
Right in the middle of Marcy's city block is a vacant lot, littered and forlorn. Sometimes just looking at it makes Marcy feel sad. Then, one spring, Marcy has a wonderful idea—instead of a useless lot, why not make it a green and growing space for everyone to enjoy? With her warm, hopeful text and inviting illustrations, DyAnne DiSalvo-Ryan shows how a whole neighborhood can blossom when people join together and get involved.

Grade Level: PK-3rd
Ages: 4-8
Subject Areas: Sustainability/Conservation, Recycling, Green Living
Publish Date: August 15, 1994
ISBN: 978-0688127862
Length: 32 pages
Publisher: Harper Collins
https://www.harpercollins.com/9780688127862/city-green/
Read Aloud Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QAnZLxqDXYg
The Berenstain Bears live in a wonderful place filled with green grass, blue skies, and lots of furry friends. But, on a fishing trip at the creek, the Bear family discovers that the town dump is overflowing. It is spilling garbage into the water! Can the Berenstain Bears find a pollution solution before their beloved county is filled with garbage?

**Activity**

*Make a poster about recycling*

---

**Grade Level:** PK-3rd  
**Ages:** 4-8  
**Subject Areas:** Sustainability/Conservation  
Recycling  
Green Living  

**Publish Date:** February 26, 2013  
**ISBN:** 978-0062075505  
**Length:** 24 pages  
**Publisher:** HarperFestival

Read Aloud Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wzWxY1udUM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wzWxY1udUM)
The Trouble with Dragons
Author-Illustrator: Debi Gliori

The world is populated by some beastly dragons who care nothing for how much they pollute the oceans, chop down the trees, gobble up all the food, and use everything up without stopping to think. Those dragons need to wake up to what they are doing to their world before it is too late. This energy-filled picture book addresses concerns about the environment in the most child-centric and delightful way!

Activity
Write a letter to the dragons explaining how they can change their behavior

Grade Level: PK-3rd
Ages: 4-8
Subject Areas: Sustainability, Conservation
Publish Date: July 6, 2009
ISBN: 978-0747595410
Length: 32 pages
Publisher: Bloomsbury Publishing PLC
Read Aloud Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCZmLFeK3TM
Imagine a tropical island—where the earth provides ample food and comfort for the island dwellers, where all are friendly with one another, and where sharing the bounty from the earth is the norm. But, one night a giant storm takes everything away from the villagers, and they must learn, as a community, the best way to rebuild and replant. This is a story of looking past the present and finding the best road to the future.
This book highlights the environmental history of the Nashua River in Massachusetts, from its use by Indigenous Peoples through the polluting years of the Industrial Revolution to the ambitious clean-up that revitalized it. From Lynne Cherry, the author of the beloved classic *The Great Kapok Tree*, *A River Ran Wild* tells a story of restoration and renewal. Learn how the modern-day descendants of the Nashua People and European settlers were able to combat pollution and restore the beauty of the Nashua River.

**Activity**

**Before & After**

**A River Ran Wild**

Author: Lynne Cherry

English Language Arts
North American Indigenous Cultures
Sustainability/Conservation

Grade Level: PK-6th
Guided Reading Level: O
Ages: 4-12

Publish Date: April 1, 2002
ISBN: 978-0152163723
Length: 32 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
[https://www.hmhbooks.com/shop/books/A-River-Ran-Wild/9780152163723](https://www.hmhbooks.com/shop/books/A-River-Ran-Wild/9780152163723)

Read Aloud Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRkwJSVi1o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRkwJSVi1o)

Author’s Website: [http://www.lynnecherry.com/a_river_ran_wild_19410.htm](http://www.lynnecherry.com/a_river_ran_wild_19410.htm)

Video Profile: Marion Stoddart: Nashua River Activist/United Nations Honoree
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wrl-wyqHjMA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wrl-wyqHjMA)

*Sustainability for Kids* 35
George is determined to save the world by lunchtime, but he's not quite sure how. Grandpa suggests they start by recycling the yogurt container from his breakfast, putting his banana peel in the compost pile, and hanging the laundry to dry in the sun. A bike trip to the recycling center, charity shop, and local farmers’ market show how recycling and reusing materials—as well as using less gas and buying local produce—can really help save the world. George even gets a favorite toy fixed! Highly original and eye-catching illustrations combine painting and photographs to draw children into the world of recycling.

Grade Level: K-2nd
Ages: 5-7
Subject Areas: Sustainability/Conservation, Recycling, Green Living
Length: 32 pages
Publish Date: September 1, 2006
ISBN: 978-1903919507
Publisher: Transworld Publishers
https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/101/1013308/george-saves-the-world-by-lunchtime/9781903919507.html
Read Aloud Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JXgjRsakmCM

Activity
Reduce & Reuse
Find ways to reduce or reuse the waste in your house
The Lonely Polar Bear
Author-Illustrator: Khoa Le

This sweet children’s picture book presents a moving story set in a fragile Arctic world threatened by global warming. A little polar bear wakes up alone after a furious storm. With his mother nowhere in sight, he makes friends with a mysterious little girl and various animal companions. All of the friends come together in the magnificent polar sky. At the end, the little bear sits peacefully, enjoying a winter day lit by beautiful northern lights. Featuring exceptional illustrations by Vietnamese author-artist Khoa Le, The Lonely Polar Bear offers an accessible way to introduce children to climate change issues.

Grade Level: K-3rd
Ages: 5-8
Subject Areas: Animals
Natural World
Arctic Environment

Publish Date: August 13, 2018
ISBN: 978-1641240161
Length: 40 pages
Publisher: Fox Chapel Publishing
https://www.foxchapelpublishing.com/lonely-polar-bear-the.html

Read-Aloud Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlcZv5Hetfs

Activity
Draw your own polar bear on an iceberg
Plastic bags are cheap and easy to use. But what happens when a bag breaks or is no longer needed? In Njau, Gambia, people simply dropped the bags and went on their way. One plastic bag became two, then 10, then 100. The bags accumulated in ugly heaps alongside roads. Water pooled in them, bringing mosquitoes and disease. Some bags were burned, leaving behind a terrible smell. Some were buried, but they strangled gardens. The bags killed livestock that tried to eat them. Something had to change! Isatou Ceesay was that change. She found a way to recycle the bags and transform her community. This inspirational true story shows how one person’s actions really can make a difference in our world! (Illustrator Elizabeth Zunon used plastic bags to create the illustrations for this book.)
A once idyllic meadow is clear-cut by a bulldozer to make way for new construction. Miraculously, there is one survivor... a lonely little dandelion. When her golden petals turn to white fluff, she takes flight in search of a new home. She puts down new roots on a small family farm and observes the family’s daily activities that contribute to a sustainable lifestyle and a more promising future. Young readers can explore many Earth-friendly techniques including organic gardening, the use of solar and wind power, water harvesting, alternative heating methods, growing medicinal herbs, and growing gourmet mushrooms on logs. This book is complete with a glossary, suggestions for family-friendly cooking with dandelion recipes, and a comprehensive resource list of follow-up links to encourage readers to further explore Permaculture techniques.

**The Runaway Dandelion:**
*Adventures in Sustainability*

Author: Jill Regensburg
Illustrator: Leticia Plate

Activity

Learn about Sustainable Farming!
The Magic School Bus and the Climate Challenge

Author: Joanna Cole
Illustrator: Bruce Degen

Global warming is a hot topic that will affect the younger generation. Ms. Frizzle’s students turn to her for help. She shares scientific facts in a fun and informative way. With trademark simplicity and wit, author Joanna Cole explains why the earth is getting warmer, and Bruce Degen’s bright, action-filled illustrations make the science easy to understand and fun to learn. This team brings a new, improved understanding to climate change, engaging and empowering kids to become environmental stewards. Teachers will cheer for this book! Kids already love the Magic School Bus, and will be inspired to do what’s right by the planet. At last, this book is a way to teach the curriculum and make an impact!

Grade Level: 2nd-5th
Ages: 7-10
Subject Areas: Sustainability, Climate Change
Publish Date: March 1, 2010
ISBN: 978-0590108264
Length: 48 pages
Publisher: Scholastic Press

Read Aloud Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5jW4E EZQzA
This beautiful book tells its story through the memories of a farm boy who, inspired by Chinese entomologist Pu Zhelong, became a scientist. The narrator is a composite of people Pu Zhelong influenced in his work. With further context from illustrator Melanie Linden Chan's historically-precise watercolors, this story will immerse young readers in Chinese culture, the natural history of insects, and the use of biological controls in farming. Back matter provides context and background for this lovely and sophisticated picture book about nature, science, and Communist China.

**Moth and Wasp, Soil and Ocean**

**Author:** Sigrid Schmalzer  
**Illustrator:** Melanie Linden Chan

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**Grade Level:** 3rd-7th  
**Ages:** 8-12  
**Subject Areas:** Sustainability/Conservation, Chinese Culture, Biography

**Publish Date:** February 6, 2018  
**ISBN:** 978-0884484042  
**Length:** 40 pages  
**Publisher:** Tilbury House Publishers  


**Activity**  
**Natural Pest Management**
Mayah’s Lot

Authors: Charlie La Greca and Rebecca Bratspies
Graphic Art: Charlie La Greca

"Environmental Justice. I bet you don’t even know what that means. I had no idea that it actually affects every one of us. That is, until it came to my home.” So begins Mayah’s Lot, the environmental justice-themed comic book that tells the story of Mayah, a young girl who inspires and organizes her urban neighbors to save a vacant lot from becoming an industrial toxic storage waste facility. It is a story that rings true for many environmental justice communities that are all too often overburdened with polluting industry, while rarely accruing much of the associated wealth. Since its publication in 2012, Mayah’s Lot has been used in classrooms worldwide.

Grade Level: 6th-12th
Ages: 11-18
Subject Areas: Sustainability, Conservation, Activism
Publish Date: 2012
Length: 24 pages
Publisher: City University of New York School of Law Center for Urban Environmental Reform
http://cuer.law.cuny.edu/?page_id=1272

Activities
Revitalize a Lot in Your Area

• Look around your area for lots that might be revitalized and write to your city council about them
• Read Book 2 in the Environmental Justice Chronicles Bina’s Plant

Direct Download:

Author’s Paper: Mayah’s Lot: Teaching Environmental Justice With Comic Books:
https://ssrn.com/abstract=3441397

Sustainability for Kids
Section D: In support of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Great Lakes Action Agenda (https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html) and New York's Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange (http://www.nyseagrant.org/gleee), this section of books encourages Great Lakes region educators to utilize localized knowledge in your curricula and to support Great Lakes stewardship efforts. The books on this list focus on the lake sturgeon (Acipenser fulvescens) and the Great Lakes aquatic ecosystem, and complement the comprehensive curriculum developed by New York Sea Grant for teaching Lake Sturgeon ecology (http://www.nyseagrant.org/lakesturgeon).

Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 1st Grade
- Good Night Great Lakes by Adam Gamble and Mark Jasper, illustrated by Ute Simo 48

Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 2nd Grade
- Tyler the Fish and Marty the Sturgeon by Meaghan Fisher, illustrated by Sandra Burns 45

Pre-Kindergarten (PK) to 4th Grade:
- Nanabosho, Soaring Eagle, and the Great Sturgeon 44
  by Joseph McLellan, illustrated by Rhian Brynjolson
- The Day the Great Lakes Drained Away written and illustrated by Charles Ferguson Barker 47

PK-6th Grade:
- Tale of a Great White Fish by Maggie de Vries, illustrated by Renné Benoit 49

1st-4th Grade:
- Tallulah, Mermaid of the Great Lakes by Denise Brennan-Nelson, 46
  illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung

2nd-6th Grade:
- Great Lakes Trilogy: 1) A Great Lakes Odyssey with Louis and Louise, 50
  2) Underwater Adventures with Louis and Louise, 3) Silent Satisfaction: Great Lakes Fish
  Save Their Neighborhoods by Stephen T. Schram, illustrated by Kimberly VanDenBerg
- The Water Walker Series: 1) Water Walkers, 2) Stepping Stones, 3) Ripples and Waves 51
  by Carole Trembath, illustrated by David W. Craig
- The Mystery on the Great Lakes by Carole Marsh 52

9th-12+ Grade:
- The Great Lake Sturgeon by Nancy Auer and Dave Dempsey 53
- People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin’s Love Affair with an Ancient Fish 54
  by Kathleen Schmitt Kline, Ronald M. Bruch, and Frederick P. Binkowski; photography by Bob Rashid
While Billy stays home learning to do laundry, Winona (Nonnie) and her cousin Bonnie head off with Mishomis for a day of fishing. Mishomis tells them the story of Nanabosho, the trickster. When Nanabosho and his friend Soaring Eagle finish their fall fishing to prepare for winter, Nanabosho runs off with all the fish, leaving Soaring Eagle and his family to starve. Trout, taking pity on Soaring Eagle, helps him, but then Soaring Eagle gets greedy and has to visit the Great Sturgeon to learn the lesson of moderation. Nanabosho also gets his comeuppance... Though the backstory focuses on Winona and Bonnie, Rhian Brynjolson's illustrations keep the reader informed of Billy's progress, including a hilarious picture of a distraught young man with soap suds flowing from the washing machine onto the floor. This is a fun book for young readers.
Tyler and his friend Jimmy are enjoying a friendly game of Fish Tag, when suddenly the waters grow dark and all the fish around them start swimming for their lives. They turn to see the biggest, scariest fish they’ve ever seen. But, when they speak to him, they find out Marty is an endangered species and he needs their help! Will Tyler and Jimmy be able to help save their new friend?
Tallulah doesn't look like the other young mermaids living in the ocean. Her tail is a dull gray, and, when all the other mermaids go on a quest to find the special gemstones that make their tails sparkle with color, Tallulah doesn't find her gemstone at all. When Turtle suggests that Tallulah search the Great Lakes, she is eager to give it a try, even though the other sea creatures believe mermaids don't belong in lakes. Tallulah explores the Great Lakes from north to south, and east to west, until she finds a beautiful Petosky stone and realizes that she is finally exactly where she belongs.
A fascinating—and entertaining—cautionary story about what the Great Lakes would look like without water. What’s down there on the lake bottom (garbage, lost sunglasses...)? And what would happen with no water? Would boats tip over and be stranded? Instead of driving for hours to get to the other side of Lake Michigan, without water, could you just drive your vehicle across the now-dry lake? This book serves as an inspiration for readers to take care of the beautiful waters of the Great Lakes to make sure they are clean and last forever. Readers will find pages of facts about each of the lakes, along with NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) maps showing the lakes’ underwater features.

Grade Level: PK-4th
Ages: 4-10
Subject Areas: Fiction, Great Lakes, STEM

Publish Date: July 4, 2017
ISBN: 978-1510712102
Length: 48 pages
Publisher: Sky Pony Press

Activity
Make a Great Lakes Connection

Sturgeon Conservation & Great Lakes Stewardship
Good Night Great Lakes highlights Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, Lake Huron, wildlife, sailing, kayaking, swimming, beaches, dunes, lighthouses, hiking, fishing, camping, museums, winter activities, and more! This delightful board book gives little ones an up-close and personal tour of the spectacular Great Lakes region.

Activity

Day, Night & Evening on the Great Lakes

- List activities you can do during the day and during the night in the Great Lakes region
- Plan a day and evening of adventures by exploring maps of places in the Great Lakes region

Grade Level: PK-1st
Ages: 4-6
Subject Areas: Great Lakes Board Book
Publish Date: February 18, 2020
ISBN: 978-1602198487
Length: 20 pages
Publisher: Good Night Books

http://goodnightbooks.com/all-books/local-united-states-titles/good-night-great-lakes/
Many times in her 177 years, Big Fish has come close to death. Stalked by panners in the Gold Rush of 1858, nearly crushed in 1913’s rockslide, almost stranded when the lake drained into the river in 1924, and threatened by a mysterious disease in the 1990s, Big Fish has somehow survived. She has led sports fishers on a merry chase, managing to escape their hooks—so far. Author Maggie de Vries’ poetic text and illustrator Renné Benoit’s gorgeous watercolors capture all the danger and fascination of Big Fish’s underwater world.
Great Lakes Trilogy includes *A Great Lakes Odyssey with Louis and Louise*, *Underwater Adventures with Louis and Louise*, and *Silent Satisfaction: Great Lakes Fish Save Their Neighborhoods*. The Louis and Louise books follow a brother-and-sister lake trout duo as they learn about the importance of respecting other fish, habitat loss, and the ecological health of the Great Lakes. *Silent Satisfaction* centers on the rapidly changing Great Lakes ecosystem and is told through the eyes and voices of fish.

**Grade Level:** 2nd-6th  
**Ages:** 8-12  
**Subject Areas:** Environmental Science, Aquatic Ecology, Great Lakes  
**Publisher:** Orange Hat Publishing  
**Author’s Website:** [https://www.stephentschram.com](https://www.stephentschram.com)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>A Great Lakes Odyssey with Louis and Louise</th>
<th>Underwater Adventures with Louis and Louise</th>
<th>Silent Satisfaction: Great Lakes Fish Save Their Neighborhoods</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Publish Date</strong></td>
<td>January 1, 2018</td>
<td>January 14, 2015</td>
<td>February 12, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ISBN</strong></td>
<td>978-1937165802</td>
<td>978-1937165857</td>
<td>978-1645381075</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Length</strong></td>
<td>68 pages</td>
<td>62 pages</td>
<td>60 pages</td>
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The Water Walkers Series

Author: Carol Ann Trembath
Illustrator: David W. Craig

This series includes *Water Walkers*, *Stepping Stones*, and *Ripples & Waves*. These award-winning picture books about an Ojibwe girl named Mai pay tribute to the many Indigenous Peoples who have dedicated themselves to walking 19,500 miles around each of the Great Lakes, rivers, and waterways to draw attention to the water and the need for responsible usage of it. These books include Common Core State Standards, cross-curriculum activities, words to know, and print and web-based resources.

Grade Level: 2nd-6th
Ages: 8-12
Subject Areas: Environmental Activism
North American Indigenous Cultures
Great Lakes

Publisher: Lakeside Publishing MI

Author’s Website: [http://www.caroltrembath.com](http://www.caroltrembath.com)


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Publish Date</th>
<th>ISBN</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Purchase Link</th>
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</thead>
</table>
Christina, Grant, Mimi, and Papa fly the “Mystery Girl” and take the mystery boat “Mimi” to all the Great Lakes on a wild and watery adventure with shipwrecks, haunted lighthouses, and island intrigue! Look at the people, places, history and more! This book introduces facts about the Great Lakes’ geography, topography, marine life, ecology, shipwrecks, weather, history, culture, foods, folklore, and more!

**The Mystery on the Great Lakes**

Author: Carole Marsh

**Activity**

**Compare Lyrics and History**

Listen to “The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald” by Gordon Lightfoot and compare the lyrics to historical facts.

**Grade Level:** 2nd-6th

**Ages:** 7-11

**Subject Areas:** Fiction

**Great Lakes**

**Publish Date:** January 27, 2010

**ISBN:** 978-0635074485

**Length:** 160 pages

**Publisher:** Carole Marsh Mysteries

[https://www.carolemarshmysteryclub.com/the-mystery-on-the-great-lakes](https://www.carolemarshmysteryclub.com/the-mystery-on-the-great-lakes)


**Book Club Discussion:**


**Book Club Activities:**


52 **Sturgeon Conservation & Great Lakes Stewardship**
The first book of its kind to explore the remarkable Great Lakes sturgeon, this collected volume captures many aspects of this magnificent creature—from the mythical aspects to the critically-real facts. Lake sturgeon are sacred to some, impressive to many, and endangered in the Great Lakes. A fish whose ancestry reaches back millions of years and that can live longer than a century and grow to six feet or longer, the Great Lakes sturgeon was once considered useless, then was overfished nearly to extinction. Though this fish is slowly making a comeback thanks to the awareness-raising efforts of Indigenous North Americans, biologists, Sea Grant, and sturgeon supporters, it remains to be seen if conservation and stewardship will continue to the degree this fish deserves. Blending history, biology, folklore, environmental science, and policy, this book uses a manner as diverse as its subject to reach a broad audience with the story of the Great Lakes lake sturgeon.
People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin’s Love Affair with an Ancient Fish

Authors: Kathleen Schmitt Kline, Ronald M. Bruch, Frederik P. Binkowski
Photography: Bob Rashid

People of the Sturgeon tells the poignant story of an ancient fish. Wanton harvest and habitat loss took a heavy toll on these prehistoric creatures until they teetered on the brink of extinction. But, in Wisconsin, lake sturgeon have flourished because of the dedicated work of Department of Natural Resources staff, university researchers, and a determined group of spearers known as Sturgeon for Tomorrow. Thanks to these efforts, spearers can still flock by the thousands to frozen Lake Winnebago each winter to take part in a ritual rooted in the traditions of the Menominee Tribal Nation and other Indigenous Peoples in Wisconsin. A century of sturgeon management on Lake Winnebago has produced the world’s largest and healthiest lake sturgeon population. Through this fascinating collection of images, stories, and interviews, People of the Sturgeon chronicles the history of this remarkable fish and the cultural traditions it has spawned.

Grade Level: 9-12th Grade+
Ages: 14 and older
Subject Areas: Environmental Science
Ichthyology/Fisheries
Limnology/Aquatic Ecology
Publish Date: August 1, 2009
ISBN: 978-0870204319
Length: 304 pages
Publisher: Wisconsin Historical Society Press

Activity
Take a Virtual Great Lakes Field Trip

Sturgeon Conservation & Great Lakes Stewardship
Enviro-Time Storytime
Graphic Organizer

Name: ___________________________   Date: _______________

1. Book Title

2. Main Character

3. Setting

4. Events

5. Conclusion (Key Point/s)

6. How I Connect to This Story

7. What I Wonder Since Reading This Book
Enviro-Time Storytime
Master List of Activity Links

Should you encounter broken links on the individual book pages, the following links are listed alphabetically for books by title. If a book's Activity does not involve a link, the book's title is not listed.

A River Ran Wild: Before and After
https://vimeo.com/42376446

City Green: Make Every Day Earth Day

Don't Throw That Away

Follow the Moon Home: Hatch a Sea Turtle
http://masweb.vims.edu/bridge/pdf/survivor.pdf

Galimoto: Making Wire Cars in South Africa
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CemYbs5GJNQ&list=PL6X2bA0puds5Sayay4-7e3z6jh_560Ii

George Saves the World by Lunchtime
https://berecycled.org/game

Kenya's Art
https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plans/teaching-content/recycled-treasures-art-project/

Life in the Ocean: My Hero
https://myhero.com/sylvia-earle-lesson-plan

Mayah's Lot: Find a Lot in Your Area Bina's Plant
https://cuer.law.cuny.edu/?p=2087

Moth and Wasp, Soil and Ocean: Natural Pest Management
https://tinyurl.com/y3xmtsm8

Nanabosho, Soaring Eagle and... Draw a Great Lakes Food Web Diagram

One Plastic Bag: Make a Basket from Grocery Bags
http://make-handmade.com/2012/01/24/recycling-ideas-basket-nilon-bag

One World: Host a Beach Clean Up Day
https://adopt.greatlakes.org

Our House is On Fire: Play the Greenhouse Game

People of the Sturgeon: Take a Virtual Great Lakes Field Trip
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSWEUqQY0s0

Rachel Carson and Her Book... Birdwatching & Listening
https://www.audubon.org/get-outside/activities/audubon-for-kids

Sarah Mather and Underwater Telescopes: Make an Aquascope
https://friendsofhaystackrock.org/facebook/make-an-aquascope-to-explore-tide-pool-life/

Science is Everywhere, Science is for Everyone: Inflate a Balloon
https://www.weareteachers.com/balloon-experiments/
Enviro-Time Storytime
Master List of Activity Links

Sea Turtle Scientist: Sea Turtle Conservancy Kids Corner
https://conserveturtles.org/education-kids-corner-downloads

Seeds of Change: Plant a Native Tree
http://cceniagaracounty.org/gardening/lawns-ornamentals/trees-shrubs
(This link is for Western NY; check with your local Extension office for species for your area)

Solving the Puzzle Under the Sea: Mapping the Seafloor

Swimming with Sharks: Make Origami Sharks
https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/shark-cootie-catcher
https://tratatuha.com/origami-shark.html

Tale of a Great White Fish: Track a Sturgeon

Tallulah, Mermaid of the Great Lakes: Become a Deep Lake Explorer
https://www.zooinverse.org/projects/usepa/deep-lake-explorer/about/research

The Adventures of a Plastic Bottle: Book Study
https://d28hpri8am2if.cloudfront.net/tagged_assets/2153_recycling%20rescue.pdf

The Day the Great Lakes Drained Away: Make a Great Lakes Connection

The Great Lake Sturgeon: Take a Virtual Great Lakes Field Trip
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BSWEUqQY0s0

The Magic School Bus... Reading is Fun Guided Reading

The Meteorologist in Me: Winter Weather Week
https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/unit-plans/teaching-content/week-winter-weather/

The Runaway Dandelion: Learn about Sustainable Farming
www.steamcitykids.org/sustainable-farming

The Vast Wonder of the World: Learn about Cells

The Water Walker: Water Walker Paper Doll
https://secondstorypress.ca/kids/thewaterwalker

Tyler the Fish, Marty the Sturgeon: Make A Fish Mobile
https://www.artistshelpingchildren.org/mobilesartscraftsideaskids.html

We Are Water Protectors: Become a Water Protector

We Planted a Tree: Make a Neighborhood Tree Guide
https://kidworldcitizen.org/make-a-neighborhood-tree-guide

Women in Science: Six female scientists every child should know
New York Sea Grant Educational Curricula And Resources

“Bringing Science to the Shore”

For more information on NYSG curricula and other teaching resources for educators, contact NYSG Great Lakes Literacy Specialist Nate Drag at 716-645-3610, SGBuffal@cornell.edu. To find more information on the New York Sea Grant theme areas listed below, please visit http://www.nyseagrant.org.

AQUACULTURE

COASTAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and RESILIENCY

COASTAL PROCESSES and HAZARDS: Great Lakes and Marine

COASTAL LITERACY, YOUTH EDUCATION, and WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Enviro-Time Storytime: Recommended Environmental Reading Lists for Children Pre-K to 12, 2nd Edition
New York’s Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange

COASTAL RECREATION and TOURISM

ECOSYSTEM HEALTH

Aquatic Invasive Species
Marine Debris and Microplastics

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

ESTUARINE SCIENCE

Hudson River Estuary
Jamaica Bay
Long Island Sound

FISHERIES: Great Lakes and Marine

Lake Sturgeon Intermediate Curriculum, 2021

GREAT LAKES HISTORY

Freedom Seekers Curricula, 2021

NEW YORK OCEAN SCIENCE

RESEARCH

SEAFOOD SAFETY, HACCP, and TECHNOLOGY

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMS

Since 1971, New York Sea Grant has represented a statewide network of integrated research, science, education, and extension services in support of New York’s coastal economies, environmental sustainability, and citizen awareness of marine and Great Lakes resources.

New York Sea Grant is a cooperative program of Cornell University and the State University of New York, and one of 34 university-based programs under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Sea Grant College Program. Learn more at http://www.nyseagrant.org
Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
721 Main Street, Buffalo, New York, 14203
716-852-7483, info@bnwaterkeeper.org, https://bnwaterkeeper.org

Center for Great Lakes Literacy
https://www.cgll.org

New York Sea Grant:  http://www.nyseagrant.org
Director Rebecca L. Shuford, PhD: 631-632-6905, nyseagrant@stonybrook.edu
Associate Director Katherine Bunting-Howarth, PhD, JD: 607-255-2832, SGIthaca@cornell.edu

New York’s Great Lakes Ecosystem Education Exchange
http://www.nyseagrant.org/glee

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

The Park School of Buffalo
4625 Harlem Road, Amherst (Snyder), New York 14226
716-839-1243, https://theparkschool.org

University at Buffalo Department of Environment and Sustainability
Susan Clark, PhD
University at Buffalo; 602 Clemens Hall, North Campus; Buffalo, New York 14260-0001
716-645-6777, evs-admin@buffalo.edu, https://arts-sciences.buffalo.edu/environment-sustainability

Wisconsin Sea Grant Water Library
Anne Moser, Senior Special Librarian
University of Wisconsin-Madison
1975 Willow Drive, Madison, WI 53706-1103
608-262-3069, askwater@aqua.wisc.edu, https://waterlibrary.aqua.wisc.edu

This document was published by New York Sea Grant in July 2021.
Download or learn more at http://www.nyseagrant.org/envirotime.