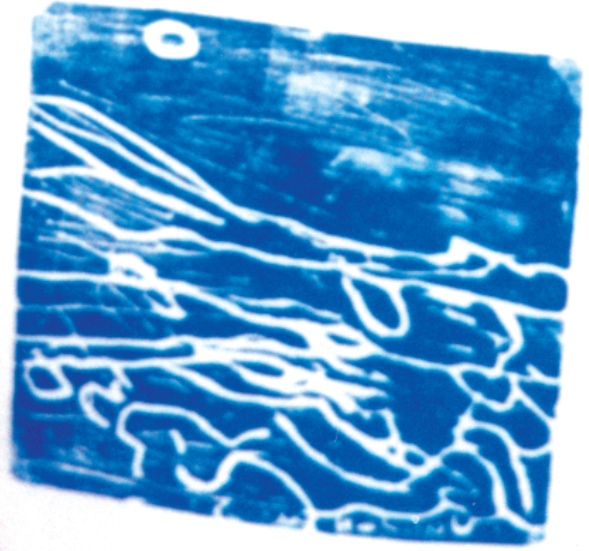


Looking at the Environment

Heather Anderson

Environmental Extension Lesson

Lakes create little worlds of their own. Research and make a list of the water plants and wildlife in and around the lake. This vegetation provides food for many creatures, attracts waterfowl, other birds, and animals. Observe, study, and write down five birds and five animals that are attracted to and depend on a lake environment.



Learning about the Environment

- learn how mountain lakes are formed. (glacial action, volcanic crater, sinkhole, dam construction, silting of outlet)
- discuss the importance of lakes (irrigation, recreation, water and energy supply)
- what are some destructive forces in lakes? (pollution, leaching toxic minerals, draining for irrigation and urban use)
- describe the process from mountain lake to meadow? (lake bed is filled with eroded soil)
- how are inlets and outlets important to a lake? (provide circulation)
- research and write a paragraph about the major geological forces forming the lakes in the Sierra Nevada, or in your particular area.
- make a list of some of the largest lakes in the United States (Lake Superior, Great Salt Lake, Lake Tahoe, Crater Lake, Yellowstone Lake), in the world (Lake Titicaca/Peru, Caspian Sea/Europe, Dead Sea/Israel).

How do we create human-made lakes? (dam the outlet)

Keywords

glacial lake
crater lake
volcano
reservoir
habitat
sinkhole



Awareness

- describe the difference between a lake in a park and a lake in a wilderness area. (built environment and natural areas)
- why would you want to keep a natural area near you as wilderness, and how would you go about it? (habitat for animals, protection of a unique environment for later generations)
- research the legal description of wilderness.

Activism

- Preparation: Check with local, state, and national conservation organizations to learn about protected areas, which include a lake (e.g., Folsom Lake State Park in California).
- Ideas to Explore: Make a sketch of a special pond or lake you have seen in real life, in a picture, or in a movie. Write a descriptive paragraph about that lake. Write how you would feel upon reaching a campsite at Obata's lake, after a day-long uphill hike with backpack.

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