

Keene Stream Team: Stewardship, Streams and Stories

Jennifer L. Frasher

Synopsis

The unit is cross-curricular research and skill building. The unit will begin by exposing students to concepts of stewardship through the writings of Izaak Walton and The Izaak Walton League. Students will research the history of the local region and waterways. They will use this knowledge to build understanding of impacts of land use on waterways. They will go out to streams and collect data that will in turn be disaggregated, analyzed, and submitted to Delaware Nature Society through a recently available App. Students will be conducting the stream monitoring activities quarterly, at a minimum. Their findings will also be grounds for persuasive writing pieces to local agencies. As a culminating activity, the students will publish a story about their experiences. The unit is a Project-Based Learning experience around the idea of the interconnection of species, their life cycles, land use, and how the health of Aquatic environments are a barometer for the environment overall. It is easily adapted to any grade level based on the complexity of the materials used and the research completed.